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S. Hrg. 98-1243

MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE

NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

S. 2850

A BILL TO DESIGNATE CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN THE STATE OF MONTANA FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

AUGUST 9, 1984

Printed for the use of the
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

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MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1984

U.S. SENATE,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 9 a.m., in room SD-366, Dirksen Office Building, Hon. Malcolm Wallop, presiding.

Present: Senators Wallop, Hecht, and Melcher.

Also present: Tony Bevinetto, professional staff member; and Thomas B. Williams, professional staff member for the minority.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MALCOLM WALLOP, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WYOMING

Senator WALLOP. Good morning. Today the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water will hear testimony on S. 2850, a bill to designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Montana for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes. The bill is entitled the "Montana Wilderness Act of 1984."

Without objection, I will place a copy of the bill in the hearing record.

We have moved a significant number of wilderness bills through the committee this session and I hope we can be equally successful with the Montana bill. It is time to resolve the RARE II issue, to round out our National Preservation System and to give the Forest Service the latitude to move forward with the land management planning process required by the National Forest Management Act on those lands not designated as wilderness or placed in wilderness study status.

Senator Melcher is with us today. He is a member of the subcommittee and will be participating with us throughout the hearing and chairing it for a significant portion.

Senator Baucus, the cosponsor of the bill, along with Senator Melcher, will be testifying. There may be other Senators or Congressmen appearing to testify; if so, due to their busy schedules, they will be heard as they appear. I ask the indulgence of other witnesses if it becomes necessary to interrupt or to change the order of testimony to accommodate members.

As you can see, we have a rather long witness list. While I am pleased to see such a large turnout and the obvious interest in the Montana wilderness legislation, I am sure you can appreciate the need to limit oral testimony to 3 minutes. We will be using a timer, and in fairness to all who wish to testify, we will enforce the time limit. Some have come a great distance in order to make an appearance and to comment on this legislation.

I ask the audience to withhold applause or comments as it cuts into the witnesses' already limited time.

It is very important that to the extent possible we avoid repetition. If you hear the points you are planning to raise addressed by earlier witnesses, please make an effort not to repeat them, but to add those thoughts to your written statement.

The complete written statement of everyone will be included in the hearing record. Any additional maps and descriptive material you may wish to provide will be retained in the subcommittee files so that it will be available to us and to the staff. The hearing record will remain open for 2 weeks after today, and anyone can submit a copy of testimony or additional testimony, and it is invited, to the subcommittee's office here in Washington.

With that, I would ask my colleague on the committee and chief sponsor of the bill, Senator Melcher for his statement.

[The text of S. 2850 follows:]

98TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2850

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Montana for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 29 (legislative day, JUNE 25), 1984

Mr. MELCHER (for himself and Mr. BAUCUS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

---

A BILL

To designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Montana for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act may be referred to as the "Montana Wilderness Act of 1984".

SEC. 2. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) many areas of undeveloped National Forest System lands in the State of Montana possess outstanding natural characteristics which give them high values as wilderness and will, if properly preserved,

contribute as an enduring resource of wilderness for the benefit of the American people;

(2) the Department of Agriculture's second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) of National Forest System lands in the State of Montana and the related congressional review of such lands have identified areas which, on the basis of their landform, ecosystem, associated wildlife, and location, will help to fulfill the National Forest System's share of a quality National Wilderness Preservation System; and

(3) the Department of Agriculture's second roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Montana and the related congressional review of such lands have also identified areas which do not possess outstanding wilderness attributes or which possess outstanding energy, mineral, timber, grazing, dispersed recreation, and other values and which should not now be designated as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System but should be available for nonwilderness multiple uses under the land management planning process and other applicable laws.

(b) The purposes of this Act are to—

(1) designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Montana as components of the

National Wilderness Preservation System, in order to promote, perpetuate, and preserve the wilderness character of the lands, protect watersheds and wildlife habitat, preserve scenic and historic resources, and promote scientific research, primitive recreation, solitude, physical and mental challenge, and inspiration for the benefit of all the American people, to a greater extent than is possible in the absence of wilderness designation; and

(2) insure that certain other National Forest System lands in the State of Montana be available for nonwilderness multiple uses.

SEC. 3. (a) In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 890; 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) the following lands in the State of Montana are hereby designated as wilderness and, therefore, as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) certain lands in the Beaverhead, Bitterroot, and Deerlodge National Forests, Montana, which comprise approximately twenty-eight thousand six hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness;

(2) certain lands in the Beaverhead National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately twelve thousand eight hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Italian Peak Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Italian Peak Wilderness;

(3) certain lands in the Beaverhead National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately seventy-four thousand one hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "East Pioneer Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the East Pioneer Wilderness;

(4) certain lands in the Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests, Montana, which comprise approximately fifty-one thousand eight hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness;

(5) certain lands in the Custer National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately nine thousand eight hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Lost Water Canyon Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Lost Water Canyon Wilderness;

(6) certain lands in the Deerlodge and Helena National Forests, Montana, which comprise approximately thirty thousand seven hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Electric Peak Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Electric Peak Wilderness;

(7) certain lands in the Deerlodge National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately forty thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Flint Range Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Flint Range Wilderness.

(8) certain lands in the Flathead National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately thirteen thousand seven hundred and fifty-one acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mt. Hefty Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Mt. Hefty Wilderness;

(9) certain lands in the Flathead National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately seventeen thousand five hundred and twenty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Tuchuck Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Tuchuck Wilderness;

(10) certain lands in the Flathead, Lolo, and Lewis and Clark National Forests, Montana, which comprise approximately one hundred thirty thousand acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Bob Marshall Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness;

(11) certain lands in the Flathead National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately nine hundred and sixty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mission Mountains Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Mission Mountains Wilderness;

(12) certain lands in the Gallatin National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately seven hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "North Absarorka Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the North Absaroka Wilderness;

(13) certain lands in the Gallatin National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately twenty-four thousand five hundred acres, as generally depicted on a

map entitled "Lionhead Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Lionhead Wildereness;

(14) certain lands in the Helena National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately nine thousand nine hundred acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Gates of the Mountain Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be part of the Gates of the Mountain Wilderness;

(15) certain lands in the Kootenai National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately twelve thousand six hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Trout Creek Wildereness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Trout Creek Wilderness;

(16) certain lands in the Kootenai National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately forty-one thousand one hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Scotchman Peaks Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness;

(17) certain lands in the Kootenai National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately thirty thousand six hundred and twenty-seven acres, as gen-

erally depicted on a map entitled "Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be a part of the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness;

(18) certain lands in the Kootenai National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately thirty-three thousand nine hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Ten Lakes Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Ten Lakes Wilderness.

(19) certain lands in the Lolo and Lewis and Clark National Forests, Montana, which comprise approximately forty-eight thousand sixty acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Scapegoat Wilderness Additions—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which are hereby incorporated in and shall be deemed to be a part of the Scapegoat Wilderness;

(20) certain lands in the Lolo National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately ninety-one thousand six hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Hoodoo Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Hoodoo Wilderness; and.

(21) certain lands in the Lolo National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately forty-four

thousand one hundred and sixty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Quigg Wilderness—Proposed", dated June 1984, and which shall be known as the Quigg Wilderness.

SEC. 4. The boundary of the existing Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, as designated by Public Law 95–249, located in the Custer National Forest, Montana, is hereby revised to exclude an area of approximately one thousand seven hundred acres north of Goose Lake as generally depicted on a map entitled "Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness—Revised", dated June 1984.

SEC. 5. (a) As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file the maps referred to in section 3 of this Act and legal descriptions of each wilderness area designated by section 3 of this Act with the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of Representatives, and each such map and legal description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however,* That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal descriptions and maps may be made. Each such map and legal description shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

(b) Subject to valid existing rights, each wilderness area designated by section 3 of this Act shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas, except that, with respect to any area designated in section 3 of this Act, any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act of 1964 shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 6. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the Department of Agriculture has completed the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation Program (RARE II);

(2) the Congress has made its own review and examination of National Forest System roadless areas in the State of Montana and of the environmental impacts associated with alternative allocations of such areas.

(b) On the basis of such review, the Congress hereby determines and directs that—

(1) without passing on the questions of the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II final environmental statement (dated January 1979) with respect to National Forest System lands in States other than Montana, such statement shall not be subject to judicial

review with respect to National Forest System lands in the State of Montana;

(2) with respect to the National Forest System lands in the State of Montana which were reviewed by the Department of Agriculture in the second roadless area review and evaluation (RARE II) and those lands referred to in subsection (d), except those lands remaining in further planning or wilderness study upon enactment of this Act, that review and evaluation or reference shall be deemed for the purposes of the initial land management plans required for such lands by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 to be an adequate consideration of the suitability of such lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and the Department of Agriculture shall not be required to review the wilderness option prior to the revisions of the plans, but shall review the wilderness option when the plans are revised, which revisions will ordinarily occur on a ten-year cycle, or at least every fifteen years, unless, prior to such time the Secretary finds that conditions in a unit have significantly changed;

(3) areas in the State of Montana reviewed in such final environmental statement or referenced in

subsection (d) and not designated wilderness or wilderness study or remaining in further planning upon enactment of this Act shall be managed for multiple use in accordance with land management plans pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976: *Provided,* That such areas need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of the initial land management plans;

(4) in the event that revised land management plans in the State of Montana are implemented pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law, areas not recommended for wilderness designation need not be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation prior to or during revision of such plans, and areas recommended for wilderness designation shall be managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation as may be required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning

Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, and other applicable law; and

(5) unless expressly authorized by Congress, the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Montana for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

(c) As used in this section, and as provided in section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976, the term "revision" shall not include an amendment to a plan.

(d) the provisions of this section shall also apply to—

(1) those National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Montana which were evaluated in unit plans and the Beaverhead Forest plan in effect prior to the completion of RARE II; and

(2) National Forest System roadless lands in the State of Montana which are less than five thousand acres in size.

SEC. 7. Congress does not intend that designation of wilderness areas in the State of Montana lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones around each wilderness area. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within the wilderness shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

SEC. 8. (a) Congress recognizes that certain lands within the Gallatin National Forest, Montana, known as the Porcupine-Buffalo Horn contain important recreation and wildlife values, including critical grizzly bear and elk habitat. In order to conserve and protect these values, certain National Forest System lands comprising approximately thirty-six thousand six hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wildlife Area" (hereinafter in this section referred to as "the area"), dated June 1984, shall be managed for the purpose of protecting the wildlife values. Management activities including resource use and development within the area, such as timber management, may be permitted by the Secretary if the wildlife values are maintained.

(b) The emphasis in managing the area shall be to maintain the habitat requirements of the elk and grizzly bear.

(c) Management direction that recognizes these values for the area shall be included in the forest plans developed for the Gallatin National Forest in accordance with section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning

Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

SEC. 9. (a) Congress finds that certain lands within the Gallatin National Forest, Montana, known as the Hyalite Peaks have remarkable scenic values, and recognizes the value of preserving this scenic area and assuring that it is managed so that its beauty and its recreational assets are maintained for future generations. In order to preserve and protect these values, certain National Forest System lands comprising approximately twenty-seven thousand eight hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Hyalite Peak Scenic Area" (hereinafter referred to in this section as "the area"), dated June 1984, shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture to preserve these scenic values.

(b) Management direction for the area that recognizes these scenic qualities shall be included in the forest plans developed for the Gallatin National Forest in accordance with section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

SEC. 10. (a) Congress finds that certain lands within the Flathead National Forest, Montana, known as the Jewel Basin contain outstanding scenic, recreational, and wildlife values. In recognition of these values, and to realize full benefit from the unique and outstanding characteristics of the

Jewel Basin, and to provide opportunities for recreation experiences on a level between that found in wilderness and areas accessible by roads, Congress hereby designates these lands, comprising approximately fifteen thousand three hundred and forty-nine acres as depicted on a map entitled "Jewel Basin Hiking Area—Proposed", dated June 1984, as the Jewel Basin Hiking Area (hereinafter referred to in this section as "the area").

(b) Upon enactment of this act subject to valid existing rights, the area shall be withdrawn from mineral entry under the general mining and leasing laws of the United States. The area shall be administered by the Secretary to maintain its scenic character, with no commercial timber harvest nor road construction permitted. In recognition of the area as a nearly primitive forest environment, to protect its values for hiking, and to enhance its qualities for wildlife habitat, motorized equipment and horse use are hereby prohibited except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area, including measures required to meet emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area.

(c) Management direction that recognizes the values of these lands for hiking and wildlife shall be included in the forest plans developed for the Flathead National Forest in accordance with section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

SEC. 11. The Congress has reviewed the proposed draft plans prepared in accordance with the Montana Wilderness Study Act, Public Law 95–150. The Congress declares that the intent of Public Law 95–150 has been adequately met in the development of these plans. Management direction from these draft plans as specified below will be incorporated in the forest plans being developed in accordance with section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. In furtherance of the purposes of the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977 (91 Stat. 1243), the following National Forest System lands in the State of Montana shall be managed as follows:

(a) certain lands in the Beaverhead National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately sixty-eight thousand seventy-four acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "West Pioneer Recreation Area", dated June 1984, proposed to be managed for wildlife values and semiprimitive roadless recreation and the remaining approximately eighty thousand acres of the study area to be managed for roaded management including, but not limited to, timber management, minerals development and livestock grazing: *Provided, how-*

ever, That road development shall be limited to the minimum necessary to meet forest management needs, and to protect water quality and wildlife habitat;

(b) certain lands in the Kootenai National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately three thousand nine hundred acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Ten Lakes Recreation Area", dated June 1984, shall be managed for wildlife values and motorized and nonmotorized semiprimitive roadless recreation. Thirty-three thousand nine hundred acres shall be managed as the Ten Lakes Wilderness in accordance with section 3 of this Act;

(c) certain lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately eighty thousand eight hundred acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Middle Fork Judith Recreation Area", dated June 1984, to be managed for semiprimitive roadless recreation, with an emphasis on wildlife management and the remaining approximately eleven thousand two hundred acres of the study area to be managed for roaded management including, but not limited to, timber management, minerals development and livestock grazing;

(d) certain lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately ninety-eight thousand acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Big Snowies Recreation Area", dated June 1984, shall be managed for wildlife values, semiprimitive roadless recreation, and livestock grazing.

SEC. 12. Congress finds that certain lands within the Lewis and Clark, Helena, and Beaverhead National Forests, Montana, contain important recreational, wildlife, and other values. Management direction contained in this section will be incorporated in the forest plans being developed in accordance with section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. In order to conserve and protect these values, certain National Forest System lands are designated for special management, as follows:

(a) certain lands in the Beaverhead National Forest, Montana, depicted on a map entitled "West Big Hole Area" which comprise approximately fifty-eight thousand acres, shall be treated as a further planning area for the purpose of this Act: *Provided*, That no new mineral exploration or development is permitted during the planning process;

(b) certain lands in the Helena National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately seven thousand three hundred acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Silver King Special Management Area", dated June 1984, shall be managed with emphasis on wildlife values and primitive and semiprimitive recreation. These lands shall be hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and geothermal leasing and all amendments thereto. Commercial timber harvesting shall not be permitted within the Silver King Special Management Area;

(c) certain lands in the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Montana, which comprise approximately twenty-five thousand six hundred and forty-nine acres as generally depicted on a map entitled "Renshaw Special Management Area", dated June 1984, shall be managed with emphasis on wildlife values and primitive and semiprimitive recreation.

These lands shall be hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing and geothermal leasing and all amendments thereto. Commercial timber harvesting shall not be permitted within the Renshaw Special Management Area.

SEC. 13. The Congress has reviewed the Elkhorn Wilderness Study and declares that the intent of Public Law 94–557 has been adequately met in the development of this plan. Management direction from this plan as specified below will be incorporated in the forest plans being developed in accordance with section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Planning Act of 1974 as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Certain lands in the Helena and Deerlodge National Forests, Montana, which comprise approximately eighty-five thousand seven hundred and sixty acres, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area", dated June 1984, shall be managed in part, for wildlife values and semiprimitive roadless recreation and in part for wildlife values and semiprimitive recreation with motorized travel restricted to designated routes for purposes of wildlife management while allowing for firewood collection, post and pole timber harvest, and developed recreation activities.

SEC. 14. The Secretary of Agriculture shall exchange lands and interests in lands with Burlington Northern Railroad Company in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) If the Burlington Northern Railroad Company offers to the United States the following described lands and interests in lands, the Secretary shall accept such lands and interests therein:

Legal description:		Acres:
T. 7 S., 4 E.,	Sec. 3; SW¼	160.00
	Sec. 9; E½	320.00
	Sec. 15; Entire	640.00
	Sec. 13; SW¼	160.00
	Sec. 23; Entire	640.00
	Sec. 25; Entire	624.08
T. 7 S., R 5 E.,	Sec. 19; Entire, except NE¼	728.24
	Sec. 29; Entire	640.00

	Sec. 31; Entire	887.52
	Sec. 33; Entire	640.00
T. 8 S., R. 5 E.,	Sec. 5; Entire	741.72
T. 3 S., R. 5 E.,	Sec. 35; Entire	640.00
T. 4 S., 5 E.,	Sec. 1; Entire	656.92
T. 4 S., R. 6 E.,	Sec. 7; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 E½ W½, SE¼	260.20
T. 8 S., R., 3 E.,	Sec. 31; Lots 3, 4 E½ SW¼, SW¼	311.99
Burlington Northern Railroad Company lands total acres		8,050.67

(b) Upon acceptance of title by the United States to such lands and interests therein, the Secretary shall convey to Burlington Northern Railroad Company all right, title, and interest of the United States to the following described National Forest System lands and interests therein:

Legal description:		Acres:
T. 7 S., R. 2 E.,	Sec. 2; Entire	663.60
T. 7 S., R. 4 E.,	Sec. 31; Entire (frac)	613.20
	Sec. 32; Entire	640.00
	Sec. 29; Entire	640.00
T. 4 S., R. 4 E.,	Sec. 2; S½ NE ¼, S½	400.00
	Sec. 8; SW¼ NE¼, E½ SW¼, SE¼	280.00
	Sec. 10; Entire (frac)	629.84
	Sec. 14; Entire	640.00
	Sec. 16; Entire (frac)	640.24
	Sec. 20; Lot 1, Lot 2 S½ NE¼, SE¼	318.15
	Sec. 22; Entire	640.00
T. 3 S., R. 5 E.,	Sec. 32; Lots 1–5, 9 & 10 NW¼ NE¼	382.83
T. 1 S., R. 7 E.,	Sec. 22; Entire	640.00
	Sec. 24; Entire	640.00
	Sec. 26; Entire	640.00
T. 1 S., R. 8 E.,	Sec. 22; Entire	640.00
Gallatin National Forest lands total acres		9,047.86

(c) The instruments of conveyance respecting the lands and interests exchanged under this section may contain such reservations as may be agreed upon the Secretary and Burlington Northern Railroad Company.

(d) It is the sense of Congress that the exchange authorized pursuant to this section should be completed within ninety days after the date of the enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall use other existing acquisition authorities if the exchange authorized by this section is not completed within a reasonable time after the expiration of such ninety day period.

(e) The Secretary shall certify in writing that to his satisfaction, at the time of conveyance, there has been no reduction in values of the lands or interests therein which formed the basis for the exchange provided for in this section. If the Secretary finds that a reduction in the value of the lands or interests therein has occurred, the Secretary shall not carry out the exchange for those lands or interest so affected and acquisition of those interests shall be undertaken by the Secretary in accordance with other provisions of law.

SEC. 15. The Congress has reviewed the draft environmental impact statement for the Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area, comprising fifty-nine thousand six hundred and sixty acres of lands within the Valley Management Framework Plan. The Congress declares that the environmental impact statement has sufficiently reviewed the suitability of the Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area for wilderness designation and finds that the lands described therein have been sufficiently studied for wilderness pursuant to section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended, and are no longer subject to the requirement of section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act pertaining to management in a manner that does not impair suitability for preservation as wilderness.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN MELCHER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senator **Melcher**. Thank you, Senator. This bill is the result of hearings in Montana, hundreds of witnesses and statements and, in addition, hundreds of letters or comments by Montanans to the members of the delegation.

Since the bill was introduced on June 29, it has become apparent that many people want a real opportunity to review specific areas that they use for hunting, fishing, camping, or other recreational activities.

This formal hearing today is a necessary part of that process, but it is more of a beginning than a climax and the bill will take a great deal more time and work to become satisfactory to meet the consensus of views in Montana. I have been a willing part of the delegation's efforts to put as much as possible into this bill, but I have noted a number of areas since its introduction that need to be reworked with better, more practical boundaries.

I also want to review the Forest Service plans that are now reaching the final stages. While this bill deals with 6.4 million acres of national forest land in Montana, there are 17 million acres of forest land in the State and the policies and practices of those lands covered by the forest plans are of major impact on future wildlife, watershed, recreation, and forest land development.

To become so involved with this 6.4-million acres that we let slide the rest of the 17-million acres would be foolish.

This is the first set of forest plans that was called for under the 1976 Forest Management Act and, as the author of that bill, I have a special interest that these management plans will be good ones.

I do not believe that it is necessary that this bill pass this year. I expect some constructive changes. Here are some significant points:

Alternative W, which covers more than 2-million acres, was recommended by numerous environmentalists.

Second, an environmental group called Earth First sought publicity and their request was that we designate all of it, all 6.4-million acres as wilderness.

Third, of the roadless areas studied, there are the total of the 6.4 million acres that I have already mentioned, but not all of those 6.4-million acres—in fact, in 199 of the areas, there is a total of 199 areas in the 6.4-million acres, and not all of them are roadless. In fact 188 of those 199 areas have roads or Jeep trails and much of it is used for snowmobiles by Montanans, and if the areas were put into wilderness, future use of vehicles or snowmobiles in the area would be prohibited.

In other words, Montanans who drive on the roads or Jeep trails with vehicles or snowmobiles would be prohibited by law from using those areas or those roads or trails as they now do if they were designated wilderness.

Of the 6.4-million acres studied, there are hundreds of miles of roads or trails. Snowmobilers use at least 132 of the 199 areas.

In 20 areas, there are dams and water development facilities which are not appropriate in wilderness areas and which will require maintenance, repair or services not permitted in wilderness.

The delegation found from the Montana hearings last year the obvious. Montanans want better protection of the national forests in Montana and want it done on all 6.4-million acres in the new bill.

We found that, first, Montanans want access to these lands for a continuation of the kind of camping, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, snowmobiling, cycling, or family picnics that they are now enjoying. Roads or trails are not always used either. A hunter may pull his pickup into an area to retrieve a deer or an elk. A camper may wind his way into an area with a vehicle, even though there is not a trail there, to pick out a particular camping spot that they like.

Second, the development potential for mining or oil and gas development cannot be easily identified for lack of definite exploration data.

Third, timber potential has been pretty well identified by actual assessment area by area, estimating the actual merchantible timber in each particular area. There are many areas where no timber harvest will ever occur.

In this regard, the delegation found that the Forest Service and representatives of the private forest products industry had done their homework. Although the delegation does not agree with the Forest Service on many of the specific areas, we do believe that the overall timber base will remain pretty much the same.

Fourth, the delegation found that the recommendation of alternative W advocated by many enthusiastic wilderness advocates contained some areas or portions of areas that are unsuitable for wilderness designation because of present recreational uses that would be prohibited by law if these areas were designated as wilderness.

Since introduction of the bill there have been several points that deserve comment or clarification. Goose Lake, a very small piece of private land located near the border of the Absoroka-Beartooth Wilderness, was inadvertently placed within that wilderness several years ago. Now, it is well known that access must be allowed to correct that mistake, and this bill does that.

There is a BLM area called Bitter Creek which has gone through the wilderness study process over the past several years that was called for in the FLPMA bill of 1976, and it has been recommended for release. That is not just the recommendation of the Bureau of Land Management, it is the recommendation of the people that have commented on it, at least the vast majority of the people who have commented on it. It should be released and this bill does that.

There are special management areas on the east front which prohibit development and this bill does prohibit logging, despite what has been said by some.

Clearcuts, it should be noted, are limited in size and conditions by law. The delegation is very much aware of that and sensitive to that and will want to review any of the points that have been raised regarding clearcuts adjacent to or in proposed wilderness areas.

The study areas of S. 393 have always been considered in the hearings and in the delegation's deliberations. We have considered them in our proposed bill, but we are certainly open to suggestions on them and we want those suggestions.

There have been many statements which clearly demonstrate that many are not ready for an overall bill. Either from misunderstanding of the bill or deliberately, some have used news media statements or advertisements confusing their opinions with facts. Although I have a strong feeling against clearcutting and a considerable antagonism toward a lot of roads and some of the management practices of the Forest Service, I do not agree with tactics that unfairly flail and ridicule the Forest Service if they are making decisions according to law and the prescribed methods of procedure.

I cannot condone a travesty of misrepresentation of facts that follows or condones a practice or belief that the end justifies the means. It has been my feeling prior to the hearings last year and following those hearings afterwards, that the delegation would do better to consider only those areas where we were certain that Montanans had given considerable thought and a consensus view had jelled. It is apparent that time has almost run out on passage of a bill this year.

However, the work that has been done to get this far on a bill has been very worthwhile and this hearing and other discussions will be very helpful and will hold over into the next Congress if, as appears likely, this bill is not passed this year.

I can speak for the delegation that all four of us welcome further information and clarification. Although none of us have requested either the Senate or House committee to hold further formal hearings in Montana, all of us on the delegation expect to be seeing Montanans in the State and to discuss the bill or specific areas in this bill. I shall be meeting with interested groups in Montana in August. All four of us believe this is a good method of allowing more Montanans to state their views and that in as big a State as Montana more people will have access to us than if all four of us gather together for a repetition of the formal hearings of last summer when the four of us received testimony from more than a hundred witnesses.

Since the bill's introduction in late June, we collectively have discussed the bill with more than that number of interested Montanans and expect to receive comments from many thousand more on a less formal basis.

We want that kind of input with legitimate, accurate information and we are going to make sure we get it before this bill moves 1 inch further toward passage in the House or the Senate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator **Wallop**. Thank you, Senator Melcher.

Senator Baucus.

STATEMENT OF HON. MAX BAUCUS, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Senator **Baucus**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I first want to thank you for holding this hearing. As Senator Melcher said, we have had several hearings already on the bill. It is good that we have had them and it is also good that we are having more. You as subcommittee chairman, I think, are performing a good service, an admirable service in helping bring out more information. I want you to know we both appreciate that very much.

Senator WALLOP. Thank you.

Senator BAUCUS. I would like to begin by saying, Mr. Chairman, that the question of wilderness in Montana, as I am sure in most States, is extremely controversial. It is really an issue of extremes. There are those in Montana that feel that wilderness is the key to protecting Montana's unique national heritage. There are those who feel that wilderness is a senseless locking-up of the land. No other issue so polarizes neighbor against neighbor.

One thing I have learned in dealing with the wilderness is that everyone has an opinion. In the face of that kind of political climate, it would be easy to walk away from it. But I want to say that I have not walked away from the issue and the Montana delegation has not walked away from it, although it would be easy to do so. And to the entire credit, I think, of the Montana delegation, I want to say that I appreciate what John has done and Pat and Ron to help move this process along.

We have struggled, we have agonized over the future of Montana's wildlands. It has not been smooth sailing to get where we are today, but it has demonstrated a commitment to resolve the RARE II question. Today's hearing is just another step, in a long process.

In recent weeks, I have been traveling throughout Montana talking to people asking them about wilderness. It is apparent to me that Montanans are still divided. A consensus on an acceptable bill still does not yet exist. Now, I don't know if we can reach a consensus this year, but I do not know that if we work hard enough it can be done. I want to do it, but it will take tremendous effort.

I know also if we are to succeed, two conditions must be met. First, we the delegation, need to respond to the legitimate concerns of Montanans who are genuinely unhappy with the current bill.

Second, Montanans will need to understand that if the question of the future of Montana's roadless areas is to be resolved, many conflicting interests will need to be balanced. And no one will be completely satisfied. Cooperation and compromise are essential.

When I talk to most Montanans they concede that there are benefits to be gained by everyone in passing a bill. There will be more certainty. There will be more protected areas. If these goals are to be reached, we must realize we are going to have to find that consensus and build upon that foundation to move forward to a common ground. It is my hope that today's hearing will move us in that direction.

I want to hear from Montanans. I want to learn what they like and what they don't like about this bill. I want to learn what is right and what is wrong with this bill.

Last year we held hearings in the State of Montana. The Forest Service has conducted study upon study of all of these areas. The delegation too has spent hundreds of hours meeting to discuss how to best resolve the management of these important roadless area. It is that process that we are continuing today.

I want to make it clear, however, that I will not support a bill just to have a bill. I will not force a bill upon Montanans against their own will.

But RARE II must be resolved. Even if we cannot do it all, I am committed to see Congress pass as much as we can and agree on as much as we can this year. The decision as to how these wildlands will be managed is also too important to be left to the Forest Service. These decisions affect Montanans, the people, and Montanans should largely decide their fate.

I also will not support a bill that is not balanced. I plan to actively work for that balance. My primary objective is to deal with RARE II. We need to resolve the roadless lands questions first and foremost. There also, however, has been a great deal of controversy over the Montana wilderness study areas being included in the bill. I agreed to include these areas to expedite the process and to obtain additional feedback from folks back home. However, if Montanans are not satisfied with what is proposed, then I will not support it either.

We do not need to resolve the Montana wilderness study areas question today, but we do need to resolve the RARE II question as best we can. As I said when I began, it is my desire to hear from folks at home and others. With that, I will stop talking and start listening to what everyone has to say.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Senator Baucus follows:]

NEWS

SENATOR MAX BAUCUS

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
August 9, 1984

CONTACT: John Flink
(202) 224-2651

MEMO TO EDITORS: The Montana delegation's wilderness bill was the subject of a hearing today in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water.

The bill, introduced in July, would set aside 747,000 acres as wilderness, designate 507,000 acres for "special management," and release about 5 million wilderness study acres for multiple use.

Montana Senator Max Baucus, along with 38 other witnesses, testifed at the hearing. Following is the text of Baucus's testimony.

STATEMENT BY MAX BAUCUS
MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT HEARING
AUGUST 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman, let me begin by thanking you for convening this hearing.

I think you will agree that the question of wilderness is an extremely emotional issue.

Wilderness is an issue of extremes. There are those who feel that wilderness is key to protecting Montana's unique natural heritage. There are those who feel that wilderness is a senseless locking-up of the land. No other issue so polarizes neighbor against neighbor.

One thing that I have learned in dealing with the wilderness question is that everyone has an opinion.

In the face of that kind of political climate, it would be easy to walk away from the issue.

I have not walked away from the issue. And, to the entire Montana delegation's credit, none of us has taken the easy route.

Instead, we've struggled and agonized together over the future of Montana's wildlands. It has not been smooth sailing to get to where we are today, but it has demonstrated a commitment

commitment to resolve the RARE II question.

Today's hearing is just another step forward.

In recent weeks, I have been traveling throughout Montana talking to people about wilderness every chance I get.

It is apparent to me that Montanans are extremely divided. A consensus on an acceptable wilderness bill does not exist.

Now, I don't know if we can reach a consensus this year. I know that if it can be done, I want to do it.

I do know that if we are to succeed, two conditions must be met:

1. First, we in the delegation will need to respond to the legitimate concerns of Montanans who are genuinely unhappy with the current bill.

2. Second, Montanans will need to understand that if the question of the future of Montana's roadless areas is to be resolved, many conflicting interests will need to be balanced. And, no one will be completely satisfied. Cooperation and compromise are essential.

When I talk to most Montanans privately, they concede that there are benefits to be gained by everyone in passing a wilderness bill. There will be more certainty. There will be more protected areas.

If these goals are to be reached, Montanans are going to have to find areas of consensus and build on that foundation to move forward to common ground.

It is my hope that today's hearing will move us forward in attaining our goal.

PURPOSE OF HEARING

I want to hear from Montanans.

I want to learn what they like and what they don't like.

Both in the state and from telephone conversations I have been talking with Montanans about this issue. I am learning that not very many people are happy with this bill.

Today, I want to learn what is right and what is wrong with the bill.

In my mind, every RARE II area either stands or falls on its own.

We held four hearings in the state last year. The Forest Service has conducted study after study on these areas. The delegation has spent hundreds of hours meeting to discuss how best to resolve the management of these important roadless areas. It is that process that we are continuing today.

BAUCUS SUPPORT FOR BILL

I want to make it clear that I will not support a bill just to have the bill. I will not force a bill upon Montanans against their will.

But RARE II must be resolved. Even if we can't do it all, I am committed to see Congress passing as much as we can agree on this year. The decision as to how these wildlands will be managed is too important to be left up to the Forest Service. These decisions affect Montanans and Montanans should decide their fate.

NEED FOR BALANCE

I want to see the RARE II question resolved. But, it can only be resolved if a balance is struck that Montanans can accept. I will not support a bill that is not balanced. I plan to actively work for that balance.

There are those who said that we would never get as far as we are today.

Well, we've made it this far.

I believe Montanans want to see this issue resolved.

It will take a continuing dialogue on everybody's part. It will not be easy. But I am confident that with the support of Montanans we will complete the task before us.

ISSUES

My primary objective is to deal with RARE II.

We need to resolve the roadless lands questions first and foremost.

There has been a great deal of controversy over the Montana wilderness study areas being included in the bill.

I agreed to include these areas to expedite the process and to obtain additional feedback from Montanans. If Montanans are not satisfied with what is proposed then, I will not support it.

We do not need to resolve the Montana wilderness study areas question today, but we do need to resolve the RARE II question.

SOLUTION

As I said when I began, it is my desire to hear from Montanans.

I will stop talking now so that I can listen and learn.

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Senator WALLOP. Thank you, Max.

The administration witness is Mr. Max Peterson, Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. Welcome, Max, and good morning.

STATEMENT OF R. MAX PETERSON, CHIEF, FOREST SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE; ACCOMPANIED BY DALE BOSWORTH, REGIONAL OFFICE, MISSOULA, MT

Mr. PETERSON. Good morning, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have with me Mr. Dale Bosworth of the regional office in Missoula, to help me answer questions that you might have. I am happy to be with you, Mr. Chairman, to present the administration's views on S. 2850 and you have already pointed out that we are short on time. So if I might I will brief my statement and submit it for the record.

Senator WALLOP. By all means, we will appreciate it.

Mr. PETERSON. Mr. Chairman, the Department of Agriculture recommends that S. 2850 be enacted if amended as we have suggested. I would like to acknowledge our significant appreciation for the work that has been done by the Montana delegation to arrive at a bill. I think we that have spent some time in Montana understand that Montanans do have strong opinions on this subject and we have a considerable amount of empathy for you on the delegation that have struggled hard to work out a bill and we appreciate that.

We do hope that the long argument over management of wilderness areas in Montana at least can be reduced by a bill in the near future. We pledge our assistance in helping to bring that about.

Just a quick overview. Of the 93 million acres in the State of Montana, there are almost 17 million acres of national forest land. Existing wilderness now totals over 3.4 million acres with the additions made in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Act, which was enacted last year. All of this wilderness acreage except 70,000 acres is administered by the of Forest Service, of the Department of Agriculture.

Five million acres or about 30 percent of the National Forest System land in the State of Montana was inventoried and studied in RARE II. From that study, 687,910 acres were recommended for wilderness, 1.3 million acres were identified for further planning, and 3.1 million acres were determined to be nonwilderness.

As already referred to this morning, included in the further planning category were nine areas, totaling a little over 1 million acres, which the Congress had mandated for wilderness study in the Montana Wilderness Study Act. Six of these nine areas are still being studied as a part of the land management planning process.

The other three, Mount Henry, Taylor-Hilgard, and West Pioneer study areas, were studied and recommendations are contained in a draft environmental impact statement issued in 1981. With the exception of the West Pioneer area, enactment of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Act dealt with all three of those areas by either designation or release from further consideration.

Moving to the administration's recommendations, the 747,147 acres of new wilderness proposed in S. 2850 are included in 21 designations of either new wildernesses or additions to existing wildernesses. Portions of 13 of the 21 areas were recommended for wilderness in RARE II. These areas, totaling 584,000 acres—I won't enumerate them but point out that these are supported by the administration. Three of the proposed areas were identified for further planning in RARE II. These include Italian Peaks, Flint Range, and Ten Lakes. These are also supported by the administration.

Five of the areas are in nonwilderness category from RARE II. These are Electric Peak, Mount Hefty, Tuchuck, Trout Creek, and Mission Mountain, and they total 75,000 acres. Those are not supported by the administration for addition to wilderness.

We recommend several boundary adjustments that we have already provided for the committee and we will continue to work with the committee as you look at other possible boundary modifications that are suggested by witnesses or that your staff might bring to your attention.

We strongly support the release of lands not designated as wilderness, as provided in section 6. The compromise release provisions that members of this committee were instrumental in working out is a significant step forward. It will help resolve the longstanding multiple-use management questions for areas not included in the wilderness.

We object to sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, which make special designations for wildlife, scenic, and recreational purposes. I might explain that. It is not that we disagree generally with the management direction that is indicated, because in most cases that tracks the preliminary recommendations made in land management planning. What we are concerned with is that the land management planning process is still ongoing. For example, public participation in much of that has not been completed.

We think it is premature to try to make decisions before the process is done, and we would also suggest that Congress leave to the Forest Service the responsibility for deciding the management of areas outside of wilderness, as provided for in the National Forest Management Act.

There is a need to relate the language of this act to the specific language of the Montana Wilderness Act, which provides that areas be managed for wilderness until Congress determines otherwise. If you do not include one of the areas in this bill and leave it out, you need to be sure the legislation removes that provision or it will be left in some kind of limbo status.

We concur with the provisions for land exchange with the Burlington Northern Railroad and we recommend only technical amendments which we provided to the committee.

Senator Melcher has already referred to some publicity that has been somewhat unfortunate over the last few weeks, related to the North Big Hole. A portion of this area has not been included in the bill and we support that decision not to include this area in the bill.

I would be happy to answer questions you might have about that area today. I might point out that since that area was not included in the RARE II recommendations for wilderness it has been developed somewhat since 1976. It is an area that has some very high values. I can certainly understand having been there several times, that some people would like to see that area remain just as it is.

But there are some very important values there that we believe can be realized without damaging other values.

We do not at all think that it is necessary to designate an area as wilderness to protect the water quality or to protect wildlife. Those are among the basic principles for which the national forests were established and are being managed.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my overview. I would be happy to respond to questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Peterson follows:]

STATEMENT OF
R. MAX PETERSON, CHIEF
FOREST SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Before the
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water
of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

On S. 2850, a bill to designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Montana for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

August 9, 1984

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the Administration's views on S. 2850, the "Montana Wilderness Act of 1984." This bill represents a Statewide designation of certain National Forest System lands for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, includes provision for designation of a number of special management areas, provides for land exchange with Burlington Northern Company, and provides for release of other Forest lands for uses other than wilderness.

The Department of Agriculture recommends that S. 2850 be enacted if amended as suggested herein.

MONTANA WILDERNESS SUMMARY

Of the 93 million acres in the State of Montana, there are 16.8 million acres of National Forest System land. Existing wilderness now totals over 3.4 million acres with the additions made in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Act which was enacted October 31, 1983. All of this is on National Forest System land except for 70,997 acres which is administered by the Department of the Interior.

Five million acres or about 30 percent of the National Forest System land in the State of Montana was inventoried and studied in RARE II. From that study, 687,910 acres were recommended for wilderness, 1,275,400 acres were identified for further planning, and 3,144,300 acres were determined to be nonwilderness. Included in the further planning category were nine areas, totaling 1,027,898 acres, which the Congress had mandated for wilderness study in the Montana Wilderness Study Act of 1977, P.L. 95-150. Six of those nine areas are still being studied as a part of land management planning. The other three, the Mount Henry, Taylor-Hilgard, and West Pioneer Study Areas, were studied and recommendations are contained in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued in 1981. With the exception of the West Pioneer area, enactment of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Act, P.L. 98-140, dealt with all three of those areas by either designation or release from further consideration.

Wilderness designations of National Forest System lands since completion of RARE II include the Lee Metcalf Wilderness of approximately 253,000 acres and the Rattlesnake Wilderness of 20,119 acres. With the designations of these two wildernesses and the release that was provided for in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Act, 608,010 acres still remain of the original RARE II wilderness recommendations. Four million additional acres still remain from RARE II in either nonwilderness or further planning.

PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

Section 3 of S. 2850 would designate 13 new wildernesses and make additions to eight existing wildernesses for a total of 747,148 acres of new wilderness. Section 4 would change the existing boundary of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness to exclude approximately 1,700 acres. Section 6 provides for release of lands for multiple-uses other than wilderness according to the provisions of the recent Senate-House compromise language. Section 7 clearly specifies that buffer zones should not be created around established wildernesses. Sections 8 through 13 provide for special management areas to be established for recreational, scenic, or wildlife purposes. Section 14 provides for a land exchange between the Secretary of Agriculture and Burlington Northern Railroad Company. Finally, section 15 declares that the Department of the Interior's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area has been sufficiently reviewed and those lands are no longer subject to section 603(c) of FLPMA. We defer to the Department of the Interior on this final section of the bill.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATIONS

The 747,147 acres of new wilderness proposed in S. 2850 are included in 21 designations of either new wildernesses or additions to existing wildernesses. Portions of 13 of the 21 areas in S. 2850 were recommended for wilderness in the RARE II FEIS. These areas, totaling 584,478 acres, include East Pioneer, Lost Water Canyon, Lionhead, Scotchman Peaks, Hoodoo, Quigg, Anaconda-Pintler Additions, Selway-Bitterroot Additions, Bob Marshall Additions, North Absaroka Additions, Gates of the Mountains Additions, Cabinet Mountains Additions, and Scapegoat Additions.

Three of the proposed areas were identified for further planning in RARE II. These areas, Italian Peaks, Flint Range, and Ten Lakes total 86,700 acres. Five of the areas are in the nonwilderness category from the RARE II decisions. These are Electric Peak, Mt. Hefty, Tuchuck, Trout Creek, and Mission Mountain Addition, and they total 75,531 acres.

The Administration supports the designation of the 13 RARE II areas recommended for wilderness; however, to minimize the impacts and eliminate nonconforming uses, we recommend several boundary adjustments that we have provided to the Committee. We do not oppose the designation of the three RARE II further planning areas. However, based upon the RARE II study, we oppose inclusion of the five RARE II nonwilderness areas.

We are especially concerned with possible foregone values associated with other resource uses, principally timber and minerals, within all the wilderness proposals and believe every effort should be made to minimize the impact of these designations. We recognize the effort that has been made by the entire Montana delegation to deal with this issue and come to a compromise wilderness proposal. We would like to continue to work with the Committee to identify other possible boundary modifications that might reduce the impacts to other resource uses.

We support section 4 that provides for revising the wilderness boundary of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness to exclude an area of about 1,700 acres north of Goose Lake. This area contains patented and unpatented mining claims the development of which would adversely impact the wilderness quality.

We strongly support the release of lands not designated as wilderness as provided in section 6. These provisions are a step forward that will allow resolution of several longstanding multiple-use management questions.

We strongly object to sections 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13, that make special designations for wildlife, scenic, and recreational purposes. We cannot support special designations for these areas. Planning for all of these special areas, including public participation, is being carried out as specified in the National Forest Management Act. We strongly recommend that we be allowed to complete these plans and proceed with implementation. These plans will recognize the special wildlife and recreational values of the areas. We are strongly opposed to designating in law direction for how these areas are to be managed.

Flexibility is needed to respond to changing resource needs over time as well as changes in physical and biological conditions. Specific statutory resource management objectives do not allow for such flexibility.

In our planning for these areas, we are evaluating the wilderness alternative. Six of these areas were included in the Montana Wilderness Study Act, P.L. 95-150. One of the areas, the Elkhorns, was mandated for wilderness study by P.L. 94-557. In the case of the Elkhorns, our studies were completed and a recommendation transmitted to Congress. We believe the area should be released from further wilderness consideration based on the completed plan as proposed in section 13. It is important that this legislation makes clear that the intent of the wilderness study has been met, and we no longer need to manage the area to protect its wilderness suitability.

We also recommend that this legislation amend the Montana Wilderness Study Act, P.L. 95-150; so that upon completion of the plans, we would only be required to forward our recommendation through the Administration to the Congress if wilderness designation is the selected alternative. If use other than wilderness is the selected alternative, we would hope that we could proceed with management under the approved plan.

In summary, in regard to these special designations, we hope that Congress would not go beyond established systems such as wilderness, in providing statutory designation, for specific land areas.

We concur with section 14, which provides for a land exchange with Burlington Northern Railroad Company. We recommend several technical amendments which we have provided to the Committee.

An additional comment that I might add relates to the attention that has been drawn recently to an area adjacent to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness known as the North Big Hole. A portion of this area has not been included in the bill. I would be happy to answer questions you might have on that area, but, in short, we certainly support the delegations' decision not to include this area in the bill. It was identified for nonwilderness in RARE II. Since that determination was made, we have proceeded with development in the area for uses other than wilderness. A road has been constructed into the area which will provide not only access for needed timber management of the area but also will provide public access for recreation uses, including hunter and fishermen access, access to the wilderness, and firewood cutting.

This concludes my prepared comments on this bill, I would be happy to answer any questions the Subcommittee might have.

Senator MELCHER [presiding]. Thank you, Max. I suspect that we are not surprised that you would not agree with special management designations in the bill. We understand your concern on that, but we also understand the concern of the Montanans that want to know what is what by law and we know it is permanent that way, likely to be permanent at least. The Congress is not likely to change it, once it is adopted.

While that does place a variety of constraints on the Forest Service, it is one that we have thought, speaking for the delegation, that it might be better to do it that way. If we continually try to accommodate the wilderness areas on some very, very fine land, without recognizing that the use is already established of pulling some pickup or some vehicle into it or using it for snowmobiling, it will be disruptive when it becomes the accepted practice.

That is not to say that we are all that determined on where the boundaries are; that is to say that we recognize that some areas already have been established as goals, at least, for a lot of people to continue what they think they would like to do near the Bob Marshall or the Scapegoat, yet not see it developed. So we followed that procedure in two or three areas there. We are not locked into anything in a positive way, but have found that that might be the best route to go.

I have no questions. I think I have reviewed the road situation in the North Big Hole. You mentioned it started in planning and engineering, I guess, in 1979. I might just add a few comments, and you can correct me if I am wrong, but maybe it is pertinent to have it in this hearing record, that prior to 1979 there had been requests from sportsmen in particular in the Butte-Anaconda Area for access to this particular area, which is adjacent to the Pintler Wilderness Area.

Mr. PETERSON. That is correct.

Senator MELCHER. And part of that access had been brought about because sometime in the middle seventies or late seventies, probably in the middle seventies, access through some private lands on a road that had been used was shut off at the decision of the landowner. I might further add, because I do not want it misunderstood, that that occurred prior to the present land owner, who is Mr. Welch.

Mr. PETERSON. That is my understanding, yes, sir.

Senator MELCHER. We've checked that out as best we can with both local people that live in the area and the district ranger and he has said that is the case. We have also checked out the fact that it is used and appreciated by, I do not know how many people, but local people tell me that the road is used by hundreds of campers and people wishing to fish or have other outdoor recreation and that it does go over to several points that are considered jumpoff points across forest land under study and into the Pintler Wilderness Area.

Furthermore, we understand that there is a considerable interest in Clam Valley for a rather unique condition where that exists there and that the road is managed, first of all, by being closed during elk calving season for about 6 to 8 weeks and that after public comment in the process of developing the plans for the Beaverhead and for this particular section of the Beaverhead, the last

2 miles of the road has been closed leading into Clam Valley, because the comments were of the nature that that particular area might receive too much impact from vehicles.

Is all of that correct?

Mr. PETERSON. That is correct. It is basically my understanding, Senator. There has been a lot of attention, as you point out, originally to the planning of the road because of the recognized need to get access to the large area of national forest, including the Anaconda Wilderness Area itself. There was a group of people including wildlife biologists, fisheries biologists and others involved in the planning of that road. It involved the Montana Fish and Game. So there has been a lot of special attention that has been given to the elk calving and so on.

To my knowledge until very recently, it has not been a matter of controversy. The use of the road, in fact, has been appreciated by those who have been in the area.

Senator MELCHER. There are 18 proposed timber sales in that particular area. Fourteen of them, I understand, 14 of the 18, I understand are to be clearcuts. Is that correct?

Mr. PETERSON. I do not think it is 18 timber sales. I think there are harvest units within the area, which might mean just a couple three sales. I do not know the number of sales involved, because we frequently do not decide sale size until sometime later, but it is only 18 harvest units.

Senator MELCHER. Eighteen harvest units, and what is the total acreage of the 18?

Mr. PETERSON. I think it is 400 acres altogether.

Senator MELCHER. I am going to just correct that slightly. We have been told it is 432.

Mr. PETERSON. You have more precise information than I do, Senator. I congratulate you.

Senator MELCHER. Fourteen of them are going to be clearcut.

Mr. PETERSON. I think that is right. Let's verify that though for you.

Senator MELCHER. I will submit 14 of them are going to be clearcut.

Mr. PETERSON. I think that that is correct.

Senator MELCHER. And that the other four are either for thinning, to improve the forest, or are for seed beds for planting, small trees growing so they can be transplanted. Is that correct?

Mr. PETERSON. That is correct.

Senator MELCHER. Knowing my bias against clearcuts, will you tell us that these are clearcuts designed under the conditions of all of the 1976 act?

Mr. PETERSON. Yes, sir. They all fully comply with the 1976 act, including shaping, size, blending with the terrain, meeting the requirements concerning wildlife, and the protection of water and so on.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you. Senator Baucus.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Max, when I am home a lot of folks are a little concerned about the Forest Service's plans for the future, particularly in Beaverhead and the Gallatin National Forest and basically other forests in the State, both from the industry's point of view and also from the point of view of recreationists. Could you tell me basically what your plans are with respect to more roads, miles of additional roads that the Forest Service intends to build in those forests in the next couple of years, also the amount of timber that you expect to put up for sale in those forests in the next several years.

Give me the best answer you can give me right now. I know you maybe do not have the precise figures, but can you give me your best answer.

Mr. **Peterson**. I cannot give you specifics at all, as I think you recognize, because for one thing the forest plans are being evolved right now. One of things about the forest plans is that we look at a wide variety of alternatives and we do get public input on those alternatives. So that process has not even arrived at a draft environmental statement for some forests.

Even after the draft environmental statements, public input and further analysis could change that. I would say in Montana, there will likely be some moderate increase in timber harvest, but I do not think it will be very much. In fact, the concern in Montana is that there will be less timber available from private lands in Montana in the next 20 years. I think all agree with that.

So the question is can there be some increase from the national forest lands to help at least prevent a decline in the timber industry in Montana. That is one of the real questions right now.

Senator **Baucus**. Assuming this bill does not pass and assume the Forest Service then continues the planning process, is it your expectation that the construction of new roads will increase compared with what it has been in the last several years on a yearly basis?

Mr. **Peterson**. Yes, it will.

Senator **Baucus**. It will increase?

Mr. **Peterson**. Yes.

Senator **Baucus**. And where will it increase?

Mr. **Peterson**. It will increase on some forests. Particularly since 1972 or 1971, really, when we got into RARE I and we had further controversy and got into RARE II, we deliberately have stayed out of many roadless areas, because of studies and because of the other controversy. On many forests in my view, we have harvested percentagewise about as much as possible of many drainages from a hydrological point of view and from a wildlife protection point of view. So on some of those forests, we simply will have to provide some basic access to the areas that have remained roadless over time. We will still use existing roads, but we will have to provide some access to those roadless areas in the next several years, in addition to what we have provided in recent years.

I would suspect that compared to recent years, compared to the seventies, for example, and the early eighties we will see some increase in the primary access, areas that are not now roaded.

Senator **Baucus**. Could you indicate where that increase will occur in the forests?

Mr. **Peterson**. It depends on the resolution of the roadless area question in many respects. We are looking at specifics in the forest plan. One of the good things about the forest planning process is that we are looking at what does happen with certain alternatives. For example, if you make certain investments in roads on this forest where should you make them, what kind of values can be produced and what kind of impact on other things occur? So it is a very careful process.

Senator BAUCUS. What percent increase do you roughly expect in the roads?

Mr. PETERSON. I think probably a better number might be that over the next 10 years, we very likely would access, say, about 20 percent of the roadless areas that are not in this wilderness bill. I mean basic access.

Senator BAUCUS. I am just trying to get a sense though, if you do that over the next 10 years, 20-percent access, how many more additional miles of road would that be? I ask this question, because I am just finding when I am home, particularly in the last several weeks, that the question of additional roads and miles of additional roads is becoming a concern to a large number of people. I am just trying to get the facts out to see how many additional miles of roads the Forest Service expects to construct over, say, the next 10 years.

Mr. PETERSON. I would say it is probably in the neighborhood of maybe a 25- to 35-percent increase in number of miles that we have built in the past, but not some sudden doubling or tripling or quadrupling of road construction. Because we have stayed in roaded areas and we have gone back and cut leave areas and we have concentrated our timber harvest in recent years in the areas that are roaded, there will have to be some increase in basic access or we simply will have nowhere to go.

Senator BAUCUS. Does the Forest Service have an opinion or recommendation of whether or not the Congress should pass a bill this year?

Mr. PETERSON. Our basic objective would be to have you pass a good bill in every State this year to simply resolve the controversy, because nationally, we have spent a lot of money in planning and replanning and rereviewing, as you point out. When Congress reserved to itself in 1964 the authority to say which areas are wilderness, I think that Congress took the obligation to make that decision in somewhat of a timely manner. It has been 5 years since the RARE II recommendations came up here.

So we would hope, that you would pass a bill as soon as you can get a bill that you feel is appropriate and meets some test and of balance. We will understand if you cannot do it this year, because it is a complicated problem for Montana.

Senator BAUCUS. Many in the timber industry want a bill. Assuming we don't pass the bill—and frankly I want one passed too, but it might not happen, we may not pass a bill—if we do not pass a bill this year, how will you manage those areas under the planning process that you do not designate as wilderness? What assurance and certainty does the State have that you will be able to proceed and put up those sales, et cetera?

Mr. PETERSON. What we would intend to do, is to complete the plans. We would look at each of these areas. We will continue to move according to the RARE II, EIS, to the extent that we can. We are vulnerable to court challenges in those areas. If we make a decision under the forest land management plan, that decision will be public information and there will be a period of time before we can put the plan in effect. So nothing is going to happen overnight. The planning has to be done through a detailed planning process, including public involvement, and the decision must be published for a period of time before we can do anything. So it will not happen overnight.

Senator BAUCUS. Can you tell me what you hear about the question of deficit sales and cost sales? Again, I am finding more people are worried about and raising questions about generically deficit sales, which I guess from the Forest Service's point, and more precisely from the public's point of view is really a question of below cost sales as opposed to deficit sales.

The Federal budget deficit, as bad as it is, is the Forest looking more at trying to put up more sales that are not deficit sales or below cost sales or is that not a concern?

Mr. PETERSON. Sure, the economics of timber sales are always of concern to us. I know you know the difference, but let me for the record point out that a deficit sale and below cost sale are quite different.

Senator BAUCUS. Right. Why don't you just explain that.

Mr. PETERSON. The term deficit sale, which I think we and some others help create, was an unfortunate term. It technically means a sale that we appraise as providing less than a normal profit opportunity to the purchaser. It has nothing to do with the economics to the Federal Government. It is a sale that our appraisal indicates that an operator of average efficiency would have less than a normal profit opportunity.

The appraisal is made on today's market based on lumber prices and plywood prices. When the purchaser then bids on it, he is looking at the price that it might bring at a time when he harvests it. Frequently a so-called deficit sale is not at all a sale that receives no bids. It may receive many bids and it may be bid for twice what the appraised price was.

In fact, in Montana, it is quite normal for that to happen, because the market has been so depressed. If there is any loss there, it occurs to the purchaser, who bid away some of his normal profit. I think that we should abolish the term deficit sales for those, because they are not particularly deficit. They may offer less profit than normal.

The other kind of sale, and frequently people confuse the two, is the so-called below cost sale. And that is the question of whether the Government receives as much in revenue as the cost of making the sale. In looking at those questions, the first question is how do you treat things like road cost and reforestation and other things that are investments in the future?

We think those things need to be amortized and they need to be allocated to the purposes that they are made for. For example, the road we were just talking about in the North Big Hole, I would estimate that the use of that road over the next 20 years will be at least 90 to 95 percent wildlife and recreation. Yet, in the so-called economics that people have used, they have tried to charge the entire cost of that road against the first one or two timber sales.

That is obviously a misuse of the idea of economics. We have other sales of insect infested timber, you recognize the mountain pine beetle in the Flathead country. If you do not break up those stands to get the different age classes, you will find that mountain pine will continue to move. Now, should the cost of sales to get different age classes, should all of the cost of doing that be charged against the first timber sales made?

Obviously, any economist who figures things that way would be written out of the profession, I think, but still some noneconomists have applied that kind of a cash flow analysis that says you ought to break even every year.

So in summary we are very concerned about the economics of timber sales. We think that considering all of the benefits from what we are doing in an area and all the costs, it ought to be a good buy for the American public. Otherwise, we ought not to do it. We are trying to look at the overall economics. That is what we do basically in forest planning. The area in the Big Hole we talked about, if we put this road in here and open up all of that area, you have access to certain recreation and wildlife, is that better than not doing it? What is the cost and what are the benefits?

Finally, in these cash flow analysis that have been made, frequently people take the income that year and relate to the costs of that particular year. For the last several years when that has been done, the timber harvest has been way down. We have offered considerably more than has been harvested. All of the cost of that offering, including the future cost of roads, has been charged against the harvesting of a single year. It has nothing to do with the particular sales. I think if you add everything up and look at all of the costs and all of the benefits in Montana, I think what we are doing is economical. On a cash flow analysis of any 1 year it may show up negative.

Senator BAUCUS. I agree that it is debatable and it is a question of how much road costs include and over what time period should road costs include determining whether sales are below cost sale or not, is the placement, let's say in the North Big Hole, that road there, which you say 95 percent of the use is recreational use over the long haul, rather than to haul timber, is the placement of that road designed to accommodate recreational interests since 95 percent of the use of that road is recreational or is the placement of that road to accommodate the timber sale?

Mr. PETERSON. You cannot ignore either one. What the people do on the ground that are looking at road location, particularly that one, the first thing they looked at was how to get into the area and minimize the problems for the private land owner.

Senator BAUCUS. What is the primary purpose of the road?

Mr. PETERSON. Well, that one was built, I believe, with appropriated funds and it was a multipurpose road, looking at all of the values——

Senator BAUCUS. But generally when roads are constructed, what is the primary purpose of the roads? I don't know. My sense is it is primarily to haul timber. It may be also recreational use.

Mr. PETERSON. Let me point to, there were two kinds of roads that we build. One uses appropriated funds. These are multipurpose roads and are designed to serve all of the purposes of the forest. The second type is the type built by the timber purchaser to serve a particular sale. With that one, the fundamental job is to serve that sale, but it also fits into a long-term transportation plan.

So it does not ignore other values. The primary purpose may be to serve a particular sale. So you cannot put it somewhere where it does not even serve the sale.

Senator Baucus. Do you have any figures which show how many sales in Montana are below cost sales, using as one analysis the total inclusion of the road cost and then some other when you amortize the road costs over a reasonable period of time, alternate analyses. Have you worked out figures that indicate which are below and which are not below cost sales?

Mr. Peterson. No, we do not really have that. Although we have done some looking at possible estimates. It would be a Herculean task to try to track costs by individual sales on any forest. Because you would have to prorate the heat and lights of the building and all of the people's time and travel and leave and everything else on a whole bunch of individual sales. We made some estimates. We can provide you what we have on that, but we have not ever tried to keep track by individual sales.

Senator Melcher. Would my colleague yield?

Senator Baucus. Yes.

Senator Melcher. My colleague has opened up a subject that we need perhaps to develop just a little bit in the record. First of all, is it not true that on an appropriated funds road, such as the 9 miles of the North Big Hole Road, that not just in region 1 but throughout the National Forest System, there is extreme competition in any given year for construction of such a road in a particular location?

Mr. Peterson. That is correct. There is a limited amount of dollars that are available to construct roads and there is extreme competition between projects for that dollar.

Senator Melcher. Then that competition develops from pressure from hunters and people who like to fish, campers, and others even those that wish to backpack into the adjacent timber wilderness area and that competition from those groups is on the record and available at the supervisor's office of the Beaverhead National Forest?

Mr. Peterson. That is correct. There is a fairly long history of concern for access to that country and the access being periodically not available and concern for getting access in there would be assured over time.

Senator Melcher. And part of that competition is also based on what other access there has been there, and the access question had to be waived after the closure of the road across private property known as the Grease Ranch Road?

Mr. Peterson. I am not sure of the name of the road, but, yes, that is correct, access after the other road was closed had to be considered.

Senator Melcher. I thank my colleague.

Senator Baucus. I have just a couple more questions and this is a hearing based on the Montana wilderness bill and not on below cost sales generally, but it is related. I do not want to take up too much time here. I understand what you are saying, Max, the differences among different roads and so forth. I do think though there should be a little more public process with respect to appropriated roads. That is so that the public has a little more idea of where appropriated roads are going to be placed and not placed and what the plans are and so forth. I would just hope in the future that the Forest Service will develop some process to allow more public participation in the development of appropriated roads.

Mr. PETERSON. I think probably that is a good point, but when the forest plans are developed, and they are now being developed, I think the public will have a much better feel for that. But your point that the public is interested in that, I think is well taken.

Senator BAUCUS. Several in the timber industry have pointed out to me too that with the flood of Canadian imports, with soft wood imports and combined with the high U.S. dollar which makes imports cheaper and exports more expensive, the timber base in Montana and other parts of the country, but particularly Montana since that is what we are dealing with here, is shrinking.

Mr. PETERSON. Yes.

Senator BAUCUS. Can you give us some idea as to the degree to which the base is shrinking combined with other problems facing the forest products industry, that is Canadian imports and the dollar and so forth, how much of a bind that is putting the industry in, that is with the shrinking base? How much of a factor is the shrinking base, can you give us some quantified assessment as to how much of a factor that shrinking base is and the additional bind that is being placed upon the industry?

Mr. PETERSON. Let me give you a kind of overview. Because of the relative strength of the American dollar versus the Canadian dollar, when I lived in Montana 25 years ago or so, the Canadian dollar was worth $1.05 against the U.S. dollar. That has changed by more than 30 percent now. That is just like providing a 30-percent discount on things that you can buy from Canada.

When you have a lot of timber just over the line in Canada, that immediately provides a great incentive for making that available. The Canadians also are the leading exporters of wood products. In fact, that is Canada's leading export, wood is greater than all of the ones that come second, third, and fourth, I believe combined.

The world market has been weak for wood products for the last 2 or 3 years, so Canada has been desperately looking for markets as are U.S. firms. Canadian lumber is able to penetrate markets now as far south as Atlanta, GA, which was unheard of a few years ago. It is not any one single factor. It is a combination of the strength of the dollar, the international markets for wood that are weak, and Canada very badly needing the export.

In Montana, the other factor is that freight rates have changed considerably from the Pacific Northwest coming east, so that has been a problem as well as the, as you well know, the rates on American ships which make a difference in the Pacific Northwest markets.

When you sum this up, you have a large U.S. industry, a large Canadian industry, both competing for a shrinking market both worldwide and in the United States, and that has placed a lot of pressure. You can say that it is somewhere around a 30-percent reduction in the markets that were available to the Pacific Northwest and Montana overall in the last few years.

Senator BAUCUS. So how much does the timber base, and shrinking timber base affect the profit margins generally of the industry as near as you can tell?

Mr. PETERSON. It is not as much the size of the timber base as it is the cost to access the timber and the relative quantity that is available fairly close to the mills and so on. That is one of the things in dealing with this bill that is important. People toss all kinds of averages around, but as you know the terrain in Montana is extremely important. So if the timber is available 150 miles away from the plant, it increases the cost fairly dramatically. So it is not just the size of the timber base, it is the relative accessibility to the manufacturing point. That is probably more important than the size of the base.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you very much, Max. I would just like to finish by saying I think we can help the profit margin of not only the timber industry, but probably most Americans a lot more if we can get the Federal budget deficit down and get interest rates down and, therefore, get the dollar more in line with other countries' currencies so we can export a lot more competitively than we have thus far.

Frankly, it is my view that both the Congress and the President have not done enough here and we should squeeze more and do what has to be done to get those deficits down and interest rates down. That, I think, is the economic well being of all of this.

Mr. PETERSON. I think you are right that as you look downstream that interest rates are coming down, that some change in the Federal deficit is essential to restore the long-term economic health of industry in Montana.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Max, is all of this discussion on roads leading up to a position for you and the Department of Agriculture and the administration joining with us on reduction of standards for roads in the forests so that we can get the costs down?

Mr. PETERSON. Senator, we have done a considerable reduction in road standards over the last 4 or 5 years. In fact the first year I was chief, I sort of arbitrarily reduced the road budget by $50 million, saying we were going to reduce some standards, we were going to try to be more restrictive about when we decided to reconstruct and so on. I am getting some backlash now from the field that we may have gone too far, because our maintenance costs go up as we reduce some of our standards and also the ability to operate heavy equipment on some of the roads. So I think we must be about right now, because we are getting quite a bit of complaints coming from the other direction.

Senator MELCHER. If standards have gone down so the costs are not so high and the roads are never going to be used again anyway for 50 years or 100 years or maybe never, I think it will please all of us.

One final thing, thank you very much for being here and we are going to welcome you to Montana in about 10 days. We will put you down a notch. You will not be looking at trees; you will be looking at weeds. You will be doing a great service, I think, if we can jar some funds out of anything you might have available to control weeds out there.

Mr. **Peterson**. Thank you very much, Senator Melcher and Senator Baucus. I am happy to be here with you this morning.

Senator **Melcher**. Our first panel includes Larry Blasing, Inland Forest Resource Council; Keith Olson, Montana Logging Association; Nick Kirkmire, Plum Creek Timber Co., Inc.; Richard Rydeen, Lousiana Pacific; and Joe McCracken, Western Forest Industries.

STATEMENT OF LARRY B. BLASING, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC TIMBER SALE PROGRAMS, INLAND FOREST RESOURCE COUNCIL, MISSOULA, MT

Mr. **Blasing**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Larry Blasing. I am director of Public Timber Programs for the Inland Forest Resource Council of Missoula, MT. In the brief time that I have to discuss this extremely important legislation, I would like to make four points.

First, the issue of allocation of roadless lands to the wilderness system has been before us since the early 1970's. Roadless areas have been studied, restudied and have been the subject of reports, hearings, meetings, promotional campaigns, political campaigns and numerous other forums. It is past time to bring this issue to some form of resolution.

The Montana congressional delegation is to be commended for stepping into the breach and attempting to bring this chapter to a close. We fully support your attempt and will work with you to pass an acceptable land use bill for Montana this session.

Second, it is impossible for the delegation to understand all of the ramifications to the public for each of the proposals dealt with in this legislation. Our written testimony discusses the areas of concern to industry, some of the proposed wilderness areas or special use areas cause serious problems for local timber industry companies and the dependent communities. Deer Lodge, Dillon, Superior and central Montana companies and communities are particularly hard hit.

Some changes in the legislation are necessary to resolve some of the problems.

Third, we are opposed to the special use areas that are in the bill. These areas should remain in the multiuse land base that is managed under the National Forest Management Act and available for a full range of land uses that are determined by public need and land capability.

The draft plans that the delegation relied upon for some of their decisions have not been accepted by the public. It is premature to use these decisions as a basis for this legislation.

And, fourth, the legal deficiencies of the RARE II process have caused serious problems with Forest Service development programs and the public that depends on these programs. Our industry has been particularly hard hit. Unless the problem is resolved, future programs will be even more difficult to maintain. Sufficiency language for the RARE II EIS is the important provision of this legislation.

Congress must provide relief from the frivolous proliferation of appeals and litigation that are filed to delay and disrupt Forest Service management programs. Many of these actions have been filed by groups that are scheduled to testify before you today and have been credited by the media as opposing this legislation. The attempts at disruption and delay are continuing.

In summary, we support your attempt to resolve the wilderness area question. We need the legislation and will do whatever is necessary to help pass an acceptable bill during this session.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Blasing follows:]

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STATEMENT
ON THE
MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984
(S. 2850)

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVE WATER

UNITED STATES SENATE

Larry B. Blasing, Director
Public Timber Sale Programs
Inland Forest Resource Council
Missoula, Montana

August 9, 1984

DEDICATED TO INTENSIVE MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT OF OUR FOREST RESOURCES

My name is Larry B. Blasing. I am director of Public Timber Sale Programs for the Inland Forest Resource Council of Missoula, Montana. The Inland Forest Resource Council is an association of forest products companies that operate mills and plants in Montana and northern Idaho. Member companies harvest timber on private, state, and federal lands and process it into lumber, plywood, particle board, cardboard, pulp and paper, packaging and other wood products. These companies employ approximately 15,000 people and the combined annual payroll exceeds $250,000,000.

The Council's primary goal is a sustained supply of timber from public and private commercial forest lands.

We would like to compliment the Montana congressional delegation on their efforts to resolve the land allocation questions on public lands in the state of Montana. We recognize that these decisions did not come easy and we respect the sincerity of your efforts. We would like to support the decision to resolve as many land allocation questions as possible through this legislation. The fewer loose ends that remain to be tied, the less controversy we should have on future land use decisions. Hopefully we can look forward to a more stable base of operations for Montana's resource industries.

HISTORY

IFRC has participated in the land allocation decision process since the early 1970's. We have actively participated in RARE I, RARE II, the Montana Governor's Ad Hoc Committee on Forest Resources, and numerous other forums where the land allocation question has been debated. During this whole process, our objective has been to retain the commercial forest lands in the base for timber harvest and retain the options for forest management so that the Forest Service has the flexibility to meet existing and future resource needs.

The commercial forest land base that the forest products industry depends on for its raw material supply has been steadily shrinking over the past several years. This instability has caused extreme hardship for the forest products industry in that they have no basis upon which to plan future operations. Financial institutions and other essential service industries have recognized that the industry is unable to insure itself of a raw material supply at the levels that are required for efficient operation. It is essential that these problems be resolved so that the forest products industry can go back to the business of supplying wood products to meet the demands of the American people. We must have a defined land base as a cornerstone upon which to build a stable industry and a stable economy for the state of Montana.

SUFFICIENCY

The legal history of the RARE II study that was conducted by the Forest Service ended with an adverse decision which was issued by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Even though the decision only applied to individually named roadless areas in California, the legal fallout of that decision has been felt throughout national forest system lands. Timber sales, road projects, and other development activities that are proposed for inventoried roadless areas have been challenged using the Ninth Circuit Court RARE II decision as the basis for that challenge. This has caused a major disruption in the Forest Service timber sale program.

Not only have individual projects been stopped or delayed, but the Forest Service has implemented a policy whereby any development project in an inventoried RARE II area that is considered to be of a controversial nature is being postponed or delayed until the forest plans are implemented or legislative relief is attained. The impacts of these delays are felt by both the public and the Forest Service.

It is absolutely essential that Congress act to remove the legal cloud from the development of national forest lands. We strongly support this section of the proposed legislation and feel that it is by far the most important element in the Bill.

RELEASE

The debate over the extent of release language has essentially ended. The compromise which is represented by the language in the Bill provides a shorter term of release than the industry would prefer. However, we will support this language in the spirit of compromise.

WILDERNESS

The forest products industry supports the inclusion of suitable areas in the Wilderness System. The question of suitability is resolved by determining which areas qualify for Wilderness under the Act and have a minimum conflict with other resource uses. We have found many of the congressional delegation's Wilderness recommendations have merit. We have also found that some of them have serious conflicts with commercial timber harvest and must either have boundary changes or be deleted. The accumulation of conflicts between the wilderness proposals and commercial forest land potentially has severe impacts on specific companies. Some localities are affected worse than others and we will discuss these individually in our testimony.

FUTURE

The conflicts between wilderness and commercial forest land will have adverse long-term impacts for our industry. The demand for wood products is projected to rise to nearly double its present use in the next fifty years. Even if those projections are optimistic and the actual demand turns out to be an increase of only 50 percent, the Forest Service will not be able to meet its share of that demand on its existing land base. Harvest levels will have to increase and the opportunities for that increase are greater in the Rocky Mountain region than in other regions of the Forest Service. We simply must retain the option to manage our total commercial forest land base if the demand for wood products proves that it is necessary to do so. By placing commercial forest lands in Wilderness, we are restricting any opportunity for growth within the forest products industry. Since Montana's economy is based on the manufacture and export of its natural resources, we simply cannot afford that luxury.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT DESIGNATION

Members of the forest products industry are opposed to special management classification for forest lands. In 1976, Congress passed legislation that directed the Forest Service to go through a stringent planning process to determine how resource uses would be allocated in national forest plans. The forest products industry strongly supported that legislation. Congress built flexibility into that law to allow the Forest Service to make periodic changes in its management programs in order to adjust for changes in the public's need for natural resources. The designation of special management areas would defeat the purpose of that legislation. We feel that this responsibility should remain in the trust of professional land managers as was the intent of Congress in 1976. It seems improper that Congress should interject itself into the forest management process when the Forest Service has not yet had the opportunity to complete the responsibilities that were assigned to it. We have not yet had a chance to test the system to see if it works.

BACKGROUND DATA

It appears that the delegation has relied too heavily on preliminary decisions that were made by the Forest Service in RARE II. When the Forest Service completed its RARE II study in 1979, the Carter Administration was in power and the Forest Service was operating at the apex of its pro-Wilderness management posture under Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, Rupert Cutler, a former Wilderness Association lobbyist. The forest products industry has serious disagreements with some of the Wilderness recommendations that were developed under the RARE II proposal because of conflicts with the commercial forest land base. It has been our intent to debate those areas of conflict at the proper time before Congress in an attempt to modify some of those recommendations. We are hopeful that the delegation recognizes the history of the disagreement with some of the RARE II recommendations. While compromise may be inevitable, the adverse impact of some of those recommendations must be debated and fully understood.

We are also concerned that the delegation appears to have relied heavily on some of the elements of the draft forest plans that have been prepared by the Forest Service. The forest products industry has aggressively worked with the Forest Service on the development of these plans. We are intimately familiar with the details of the planning process and understand both the positive and negative impacts of the draft decisions that were proposed by the Forest Service. The review of the forest products industry comments to those draft plans will clearly show that the forest products industry is not in agreement with some conclusions reached in those preliminary proposals.

One of the most common disagreements is over the loss of commercial forest land base in areas where no timber harvest is proposed. We are continuing to work with the Forest Service to negotiate a modification of many elements of those plans. We have found technical flaws in the data base that supports these plans. We have found defects in the process that the Forest Service used to develop their proposals. It is our intention to work with the Forest Service to have these deficiencies corrected prior to any final approval of forest plans. By correcting these deficiencies some of the management proposals that were in the draft plans may be substantially changed. If the impacts appear to be too severe, the forest products industry still has the option to pursue legal remedies to have the deficiencies corrected. Until such time as the final plans are approved and in place, we consider it premature for Congress to consider any type of special use legislation.

It must be recognized that the forest plans that you relied on as a basis for some of your legislative recommendations, were only recommendations for a ten-year plan. If the Forest Service were writing a plan that would be permanently in place, as is the case with legislation, you would undoubtedly have seen different land allocations. We believe that the Forest Service has unnecessarily restricted its commercial forest land base, and that the options proposed in the draft forest plans can be improved. Special management legislation based on draft plans is premature and may require implementation of land use practices that are substandard.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

ANACONDA PINTLAR ADDITIONS Sec. 3(a)(1)

The forest products industry supports some addition to the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness area. The delegation proposes approximately 28,600 acres. These additions contain several areas of commercial forest land.

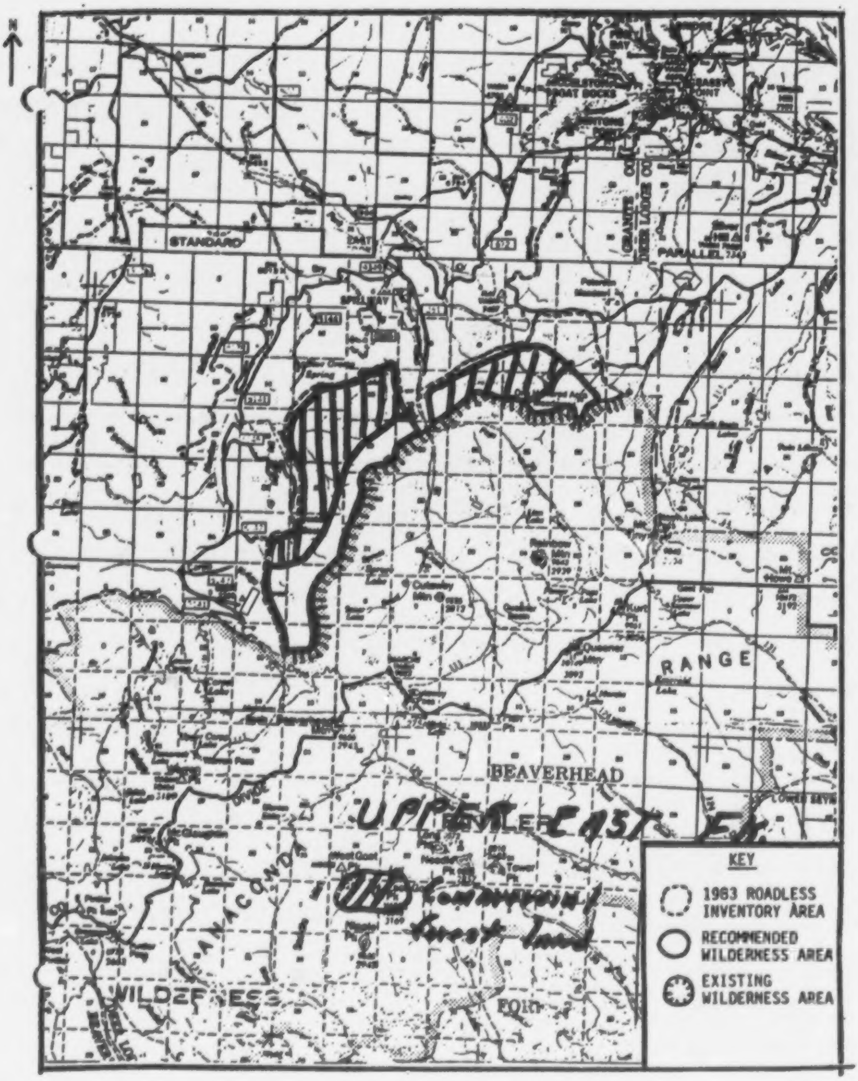
Perhaps the area in the Bill that has received the most public attention is the North Big Hole. The forest products industry supported the Forest Service proposal of 6,532 acres as Wilderness. We can agree to the 11,300 acre compromise as proposed in the Bill. We cannot support any additional acreage because it will would contain commercial forest land. The area has been accessed by a multiple-use forest road that was constructed through appropriated funds. A timber sale that has been in the planning stages since 1975 is proposed for the area.

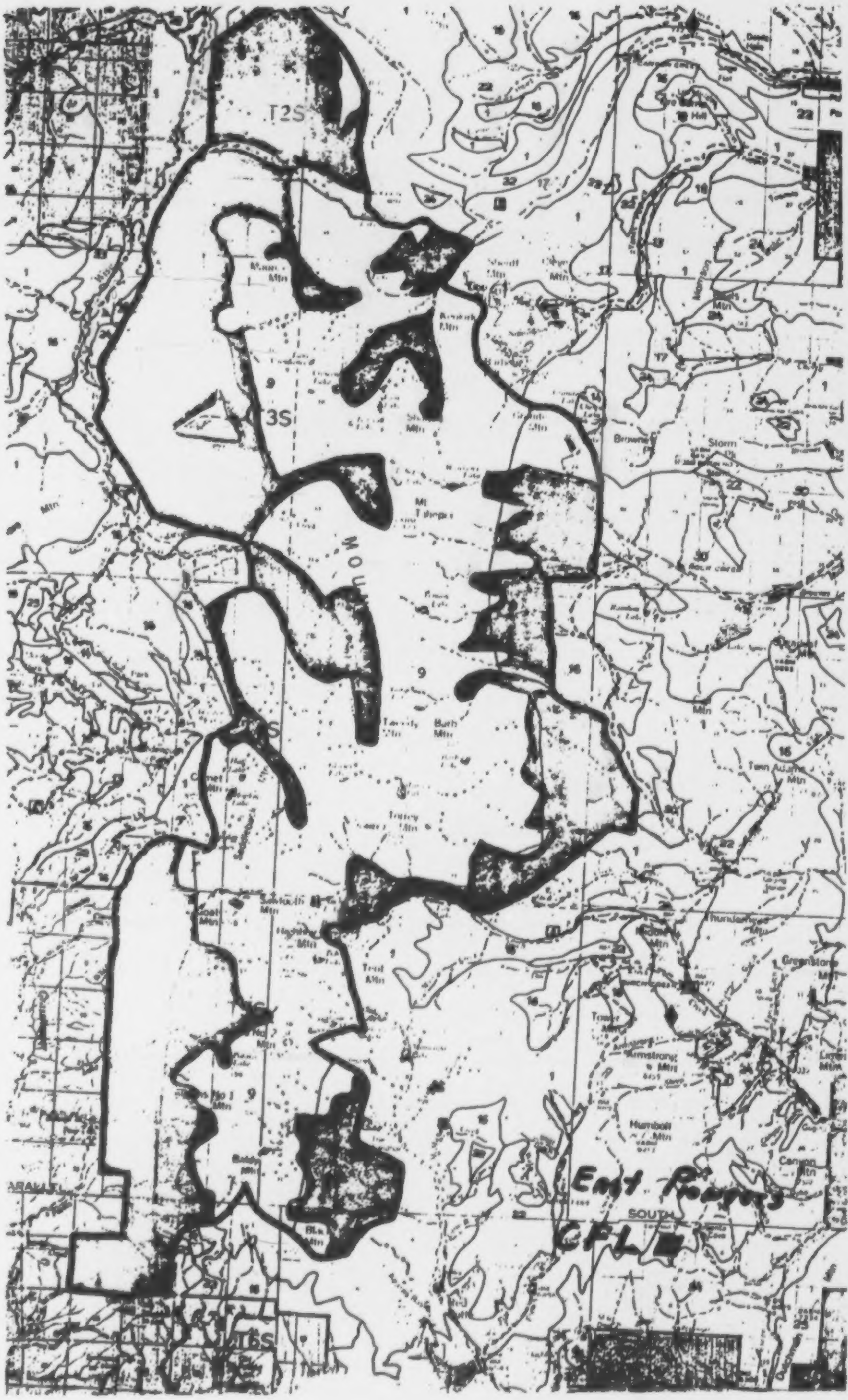
We are opposed to the inclusion of Swift Creek (700 acres) and Needle Creek (1,100 acres) to the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness Area. Both of these areas are commercial forest land and are leave blocks between existing clearcuts. These are small areas that were studied in RARE II as contiguous areas to the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness Area. The contiguous boundaries between these areas and the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness Area follow the top of a ridge. Swift Creek and Needle Creek are on the opposite side of the ridge from the Wilderness Area. The inclusion of these areas would make an impossible boundary to define and manage.

The Upper East Fork addition contains 6,300 acres of which more than 50 percent is commercial forest land. (See map.) The area contains the three million board feet Dexter Basin Timber Sale which is planned for fiscal year 1991. A boundary change is needed to remove most of the commercial forest land. The timber is tributary to Deer Lodge, Hall, and Drummond.

EAST PIONEERS Sec. 3(a)(3)

The East Pioneers proposal contains approximately 34,000 acres of commercial forest land. (See map.) This area should produce an annual volume of approximately 6.8 million board feet. The commercial forest land in the East Pioneers is tributary


N
STANDARD
GRANITE CO
DEER LODGE CO
PARALLEL
RANGE
BEAVERHEAD
ANACONDA
WILDERNESS
UPPER EAST FK.
Commercial Forest land
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA


T2S
3S
MOU
Storm
Tweedy Mtn
Torrey Mtn
Ten Acre Mtn
Thunderbolt Mtn
Greenstone Mtn
Armstrong Mtn
Humbolt Mtn
Canyon Mtn
Baldy Mtn
SOUTH
T8S
East Pioneers
CFL

to both Deer Lodge and Dillon and is extremely important to the survival of the sawmills in these communities. We recommend a boundary adjustment to remove the commercial forest land from the proposed Wilderness Area.

SELWAY BITTERROOT ADDITIONS Sec. 3(a)(4)

We are opposed to the inclusion of the Selway Bitterroot Canyons. These areas contain commercial forest lands that can be helicopter logged. Big Creek Canyon is an example where this has been done. The existing Wilderness boundary is located in a good location. Inclusion of the canyons would make the boundary difficult to manage. Recreational use is heavy in these canyons and Wilderness classification will cause restriction of that use.

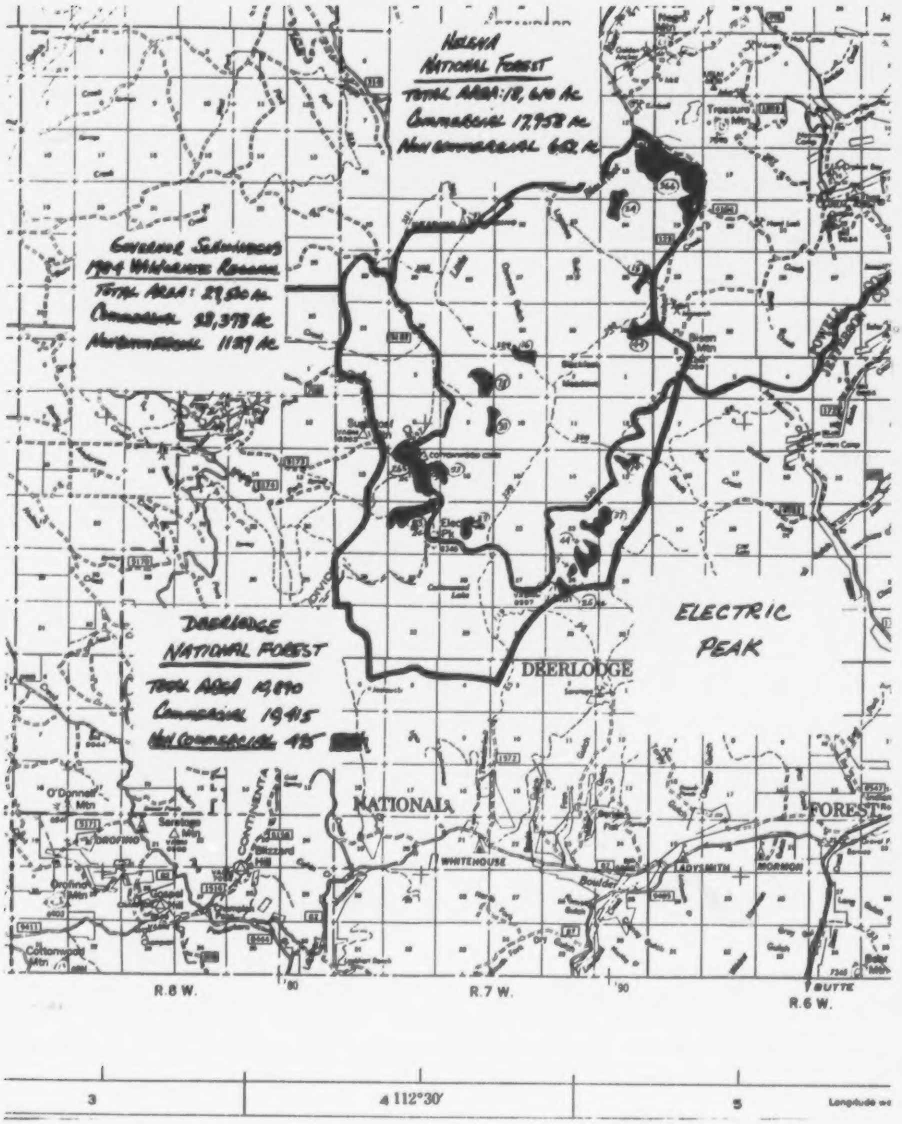
The Meadow Creek addition contains 12,600 acres of commercial forest land with 62.1 million board feet of commercial timber. Wildlife may be enhanced by some timber harvest (mountain sheep). Some boundary adjustment required.

ELECTRIC PEAK Sec. 3(a)(6)

This area is 96 percent commercial forest land (see map) and can potentially produce 5.7 million board feet of timber annually. It is extremely important to the operations in Deer Lodge, Townsend and Silver City. This area must be deleted from the Bill and released under Sec. 6(b)(3).

FLINT RANGE Sec. 3(a)(7)

This area contains 38,600 acres of commercial forest land


HELENA
NATIONAL FOREST
TOTAL AREA: 18,610 Ac
COMMERCIAL 17,958 Ac
NON COMMERCIAL 652 Ac
GOVERNOR SCHWINDENS
1984 WILDERNESS RELEASE
TOTAL AREA: 29,500 Ac
COMMERCIAL 28,378 Ac
NONCOMMERCIAL 1129 Ac
DEERLODGE
NATIONAL FOREST
TOTAL AREA 19,890
COMMERCIAL 19,415
NON COMMERCIAL 475 [redacted]
ELECTRIC
PEAK
DEERLODGE
NATIONAL
FOREST
Treasure Mtn
Bison Mtn
Electric Pk
Cottonwood Lake
O'Donnell Mtn
Saratoga Mtn
OROFINO
Orofino Mtn
Blizzard Hill
Gospel Hill
Cottonwood Mtn
CONTINENTAL
WHITEHOUSE
Boulder
LADYSMITH
MORMON
BUTTE
R.8 W.
'80
R.7 W.
'90
R.6 W.
3
4 112°30′
5
Longitude

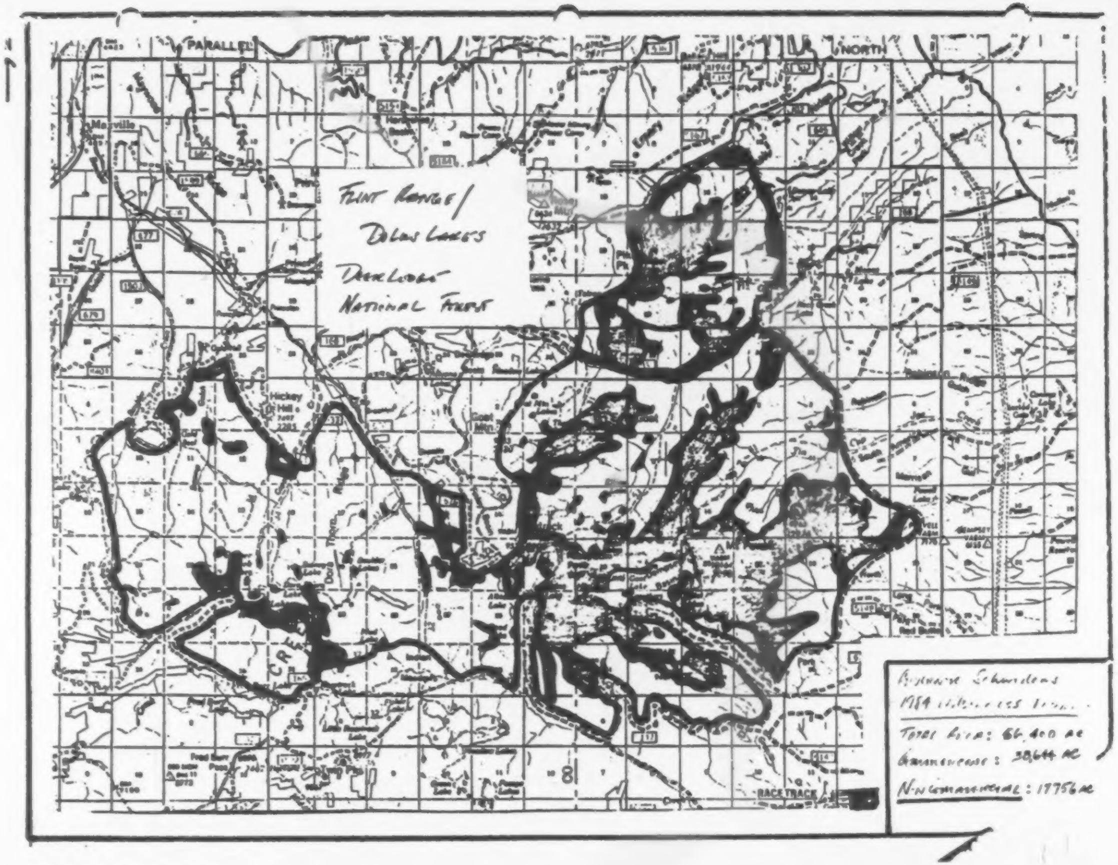
which is mostly in the west half (see map). The west half should be deleted from the Bill. The timber is tributary to Deer Lodge, Hall, Drummond, and Missoula. Mining and motorized recreation use is heavy throughout the whole area.

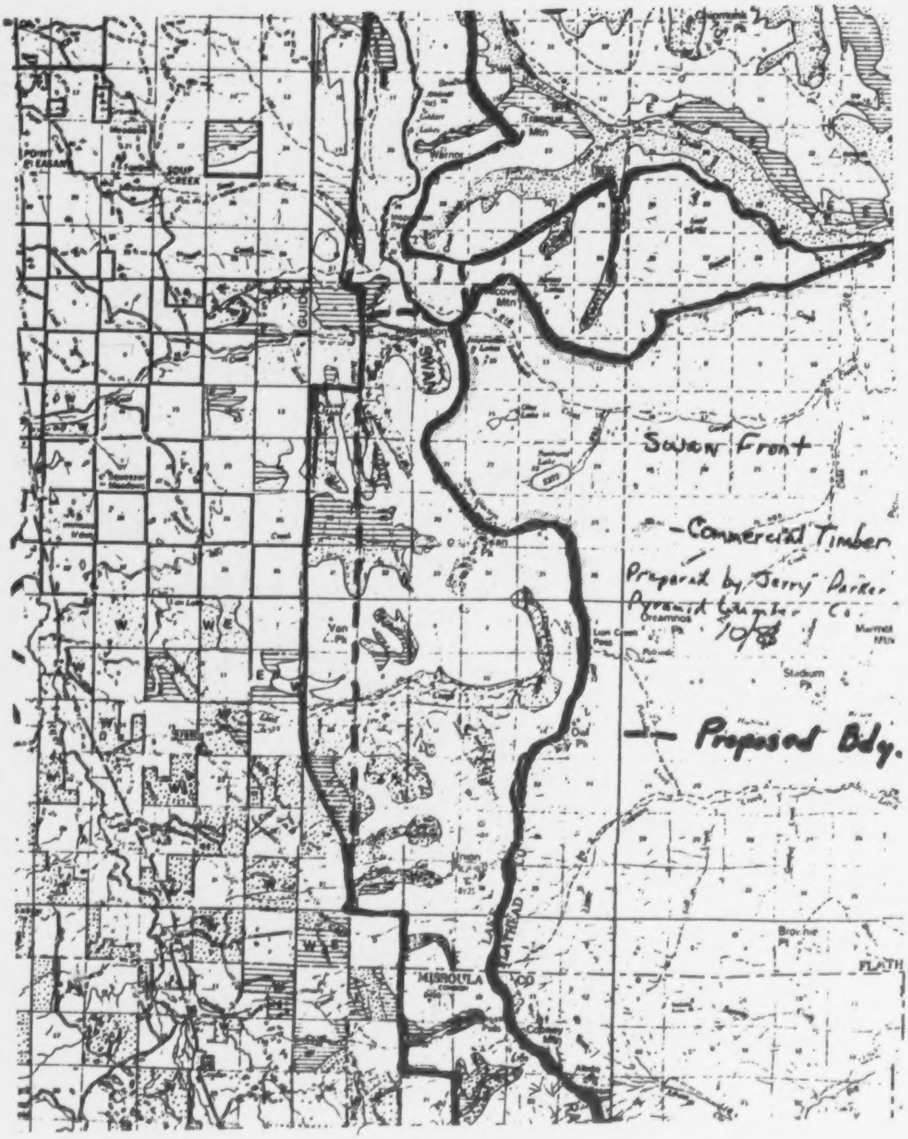
MT. HEFTY Sec. 3(a)(8)

This area contains mostly commercial forest land and is a highly productive component of the Flathead National Forest timber base. It contains 8,560 acres of commercial forest land with an annual cut of 1.7 million board feet. The Forest Service recommends no Wilderness for the area in order to allow some timber harvest to improve grizzly bear habitat. The area should be deleted from the Bill.

BOB MARSHALL ADDITIONS Sec. 3(a)(10)

Boundary adjustments are necessary to preserve future resource options and remove commercial forest lands. Missoula and Seeley Lake residents must go through Hungry Horse to have access to the Spotted Bear area. In addition timber sales from the Spotted Bear area are not accessible to Seeley Lake or Polson. Some Spotted Bear timber sales that are purchased by Columbia Falls mills can more efficiently be transported through the Swan Valley. All of this requires construction of about two miles of road through Inspiration Pass on Bunker Creek. The boundary should be relocated to retain this option. Three thousand, two hundred (3,200) acres of commercial forest land can be preserved by making a small boundary change. (See map.)


PARALLEL
NORTH
Maxville
Hickey Hill
Goat Mtn.
RACETRACK
Flint Range /
Dolus Lakes
Deerlodge
National Forest
Proposed Schwindens
1984 Wilderness line
Total Area: 56,400 ac
Wilderness: 38,644 ac
Nonwilderness: 17756 ac



Swan Front

Prepared by Jerry Parker
Pyramid Lumber Co.
10/83

— Commercial Timber
— Proposed Bdy.
SOUP CREEK
POINT PLEASANT
GUIDE
SWAN
Warner
Van Pk
Lion Creek Pass
Oreamnos Pk
Marmot Mtn
Stadium Pk
Owl Pk
Union Pk
MISSOULA COUNTY
FLATHEAD CO
FLATH

MISSION MOUNTAIN ADDITION Sec. 3(a)(11)

This addition adds nothing to the existing Wilderness area. It is a narrow strip one-half mile wide and does not have Wilderness characteristics as defined in the Wilderness Act. The area should be deleted from the Bill.

LIONHEAD Sec. 3(a)(13)

The delegation proposal contains commercial forest lands; and a boundary adjustment is necessary. (See map.) The timber is tributary to Bozeman and St. Anthony, Idaho. The Gallatin National Forest timber base has been severely reduced. All timber options must be retained.

TROUT CREEK Sec. 3(a)(15)

This area is 90 percent commercial forest land and should be deleted from the Bill. (See map.)

SCOTCHMAN PEAKS Sec. 3(a)(16)

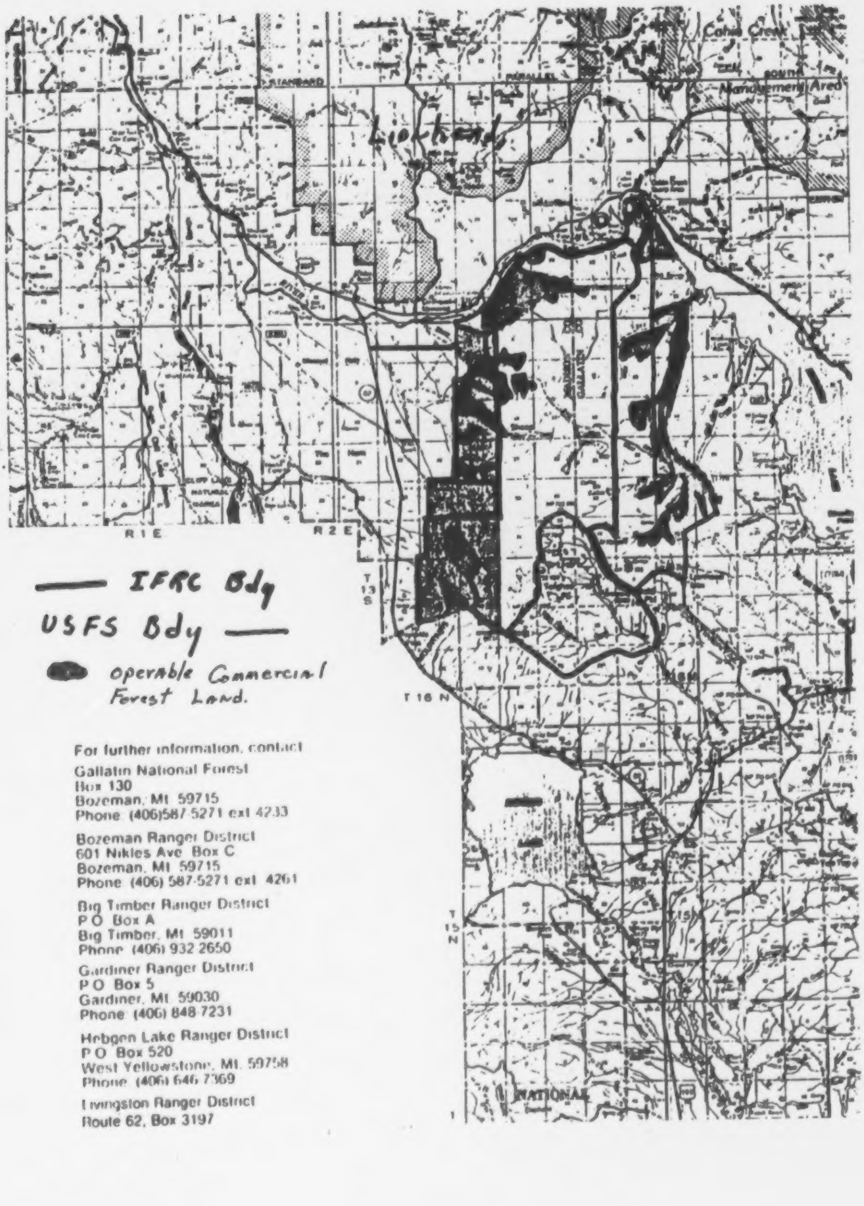
This proposal still contains highly productive commercial forest lands. Boundary adjustments are necessary in the Pellick Ridge area. The proposed boundary will be difficult to locate and administer.

CABINET WILDERNESS ADDITIONS Sec. 3(a)(17)

The proposal includes high-site commercial forest lands. Some boundary changes (particularly on the east side) could significantly reduce the impact.

TEN LAKES Sec. 3(a)(18)

The Wilderness proposal contains roads and clearcuts.


Cabin Creek
Management Area
Lionhead
R 1 E
R 2 E
T 13 S
T 16 N
T 15 N
NATIONAL
IFRC Bdy
USFS Bdy
operable Commercial Forest Land.

For further information, contact

Gallatin National Forest
Box 130
Bozeman, Mt 59715
Phone (406)587-5271 ext 4233

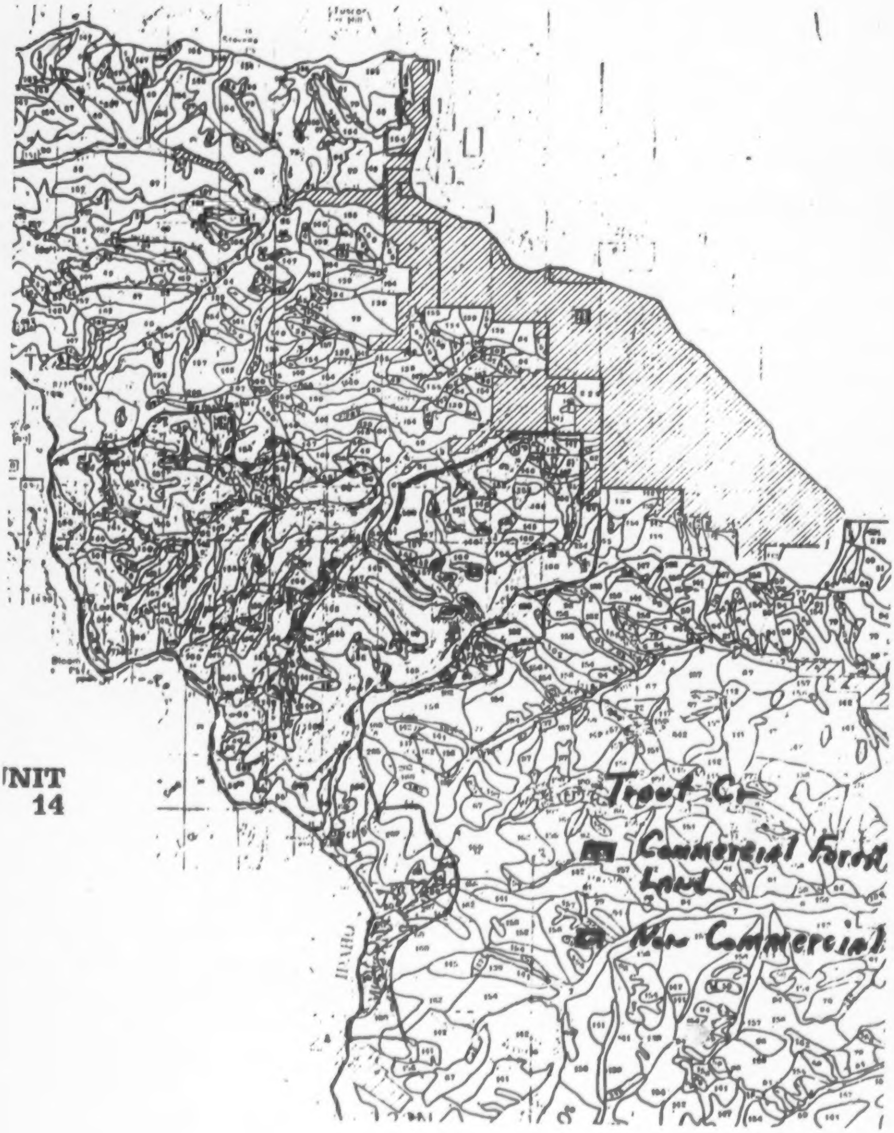
Bozeman Ranger District
601 Nikles Ave Box C
Bozeman, Mt 59715
Phone (406) 587-5271 ext 4261

Big Timber Ranger District
P O Box A
Big Timber, Mt 59011
Phone (406) 932-2650

Gardiner Ranger District
P O Box 5
Gardiner, Mt 59030
Phone (406) 848-7231

Hebgen Lake Ranger District
P O Box 520
West Yellowstone, Mt 59758
Phone (406) 646-7369

Livingston Ranger District
Route 62, Box 3197


Trout Cr
Commercial Forest Land
Non Commercial
IDAHO

NIT
14

The commercial forest lands on the west side of Ten Lakes are important to the long-term timber base for the Fortine sawmill. Boundary adjustments to remove the commercial forest lands from the area are necessary.

SCAPEGOAT WILDERNESS ADDITIONS Sec. 3(a)(19)

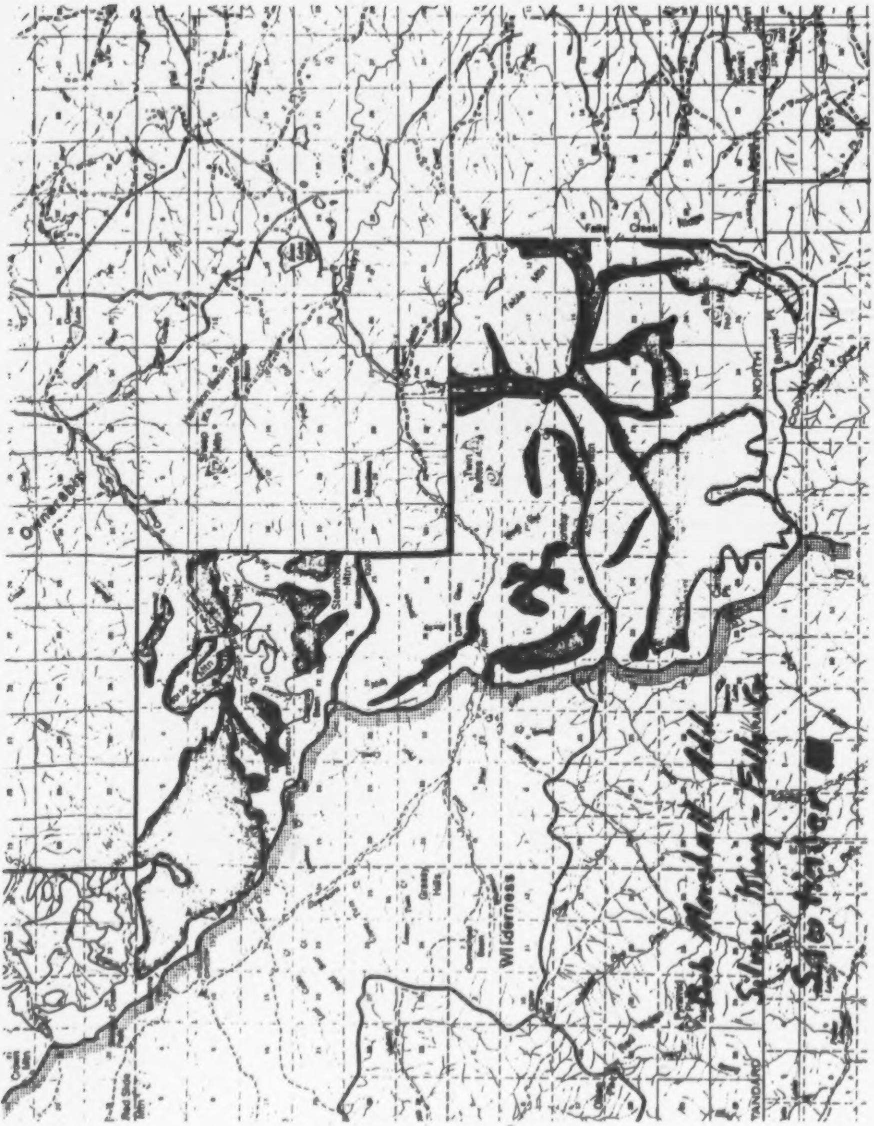
The Silver King Falls proposal contains 5,965 acres of commercial forest land. (See map.) A boundary adjustment is necessary. This timber is tributary to Silver City, Lincoln, and Seeley Lake.

HOODOO Sec. 3(a)(20)

The delegation proposal for Wilderness in the Hoodoo area is much more critical to the forest products industry now that the Idaho Bill was introduced. The 91,600 acres in S. 2850 and the 124,500 acres in S. 2457 which are contiguous areas contain at least 50 percent commercial forest land with an annual potential yield of six million board feet on the Montana side and 10 million board feet on the Idaho side. This volume is essential to the long-term timber supply for the sawmill in Superior. The loss of this volume may cause a curtailment or closure of the Superior mill. Since the sawmill is the main source of employment in Superior, the consequences would be disasterous. Boundary changes are essential to safeguard Superior's economy.

QUIGG WILDERNESS Sec. 3(a)(21)

The east half of the Quigg Wilderness proposal is mostly


Ovando
Falls Creek
Steamboat Mtn.
Wilderness
NORTH
STANDARD
Bob Marshall Add.
Silver King - Falls C.

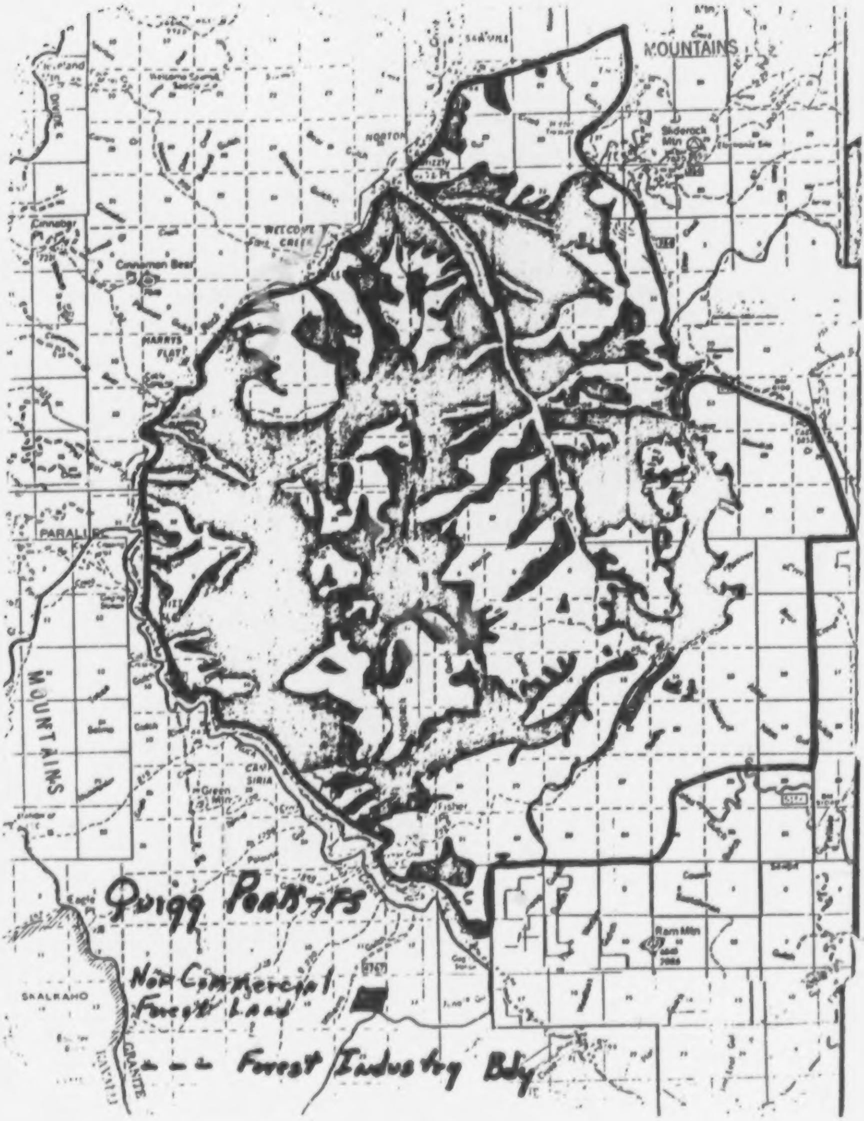
commercial forest land. (See map.) There are approximately 9,000 acres of commercial forest land. Boundary changes are necessary to protect the timber base for Hall, Drummond, Deer Lodge and Missoula.

PORCUPINE-BUFFALO HORN WILDLIFE AREA Sec. 8(a)

The forest products industry recognizes that wildlife is an important resource in the Porcupine-Buffalo Horn area. However, this area contains some of the most productive commercial forest lands on the Gallatin National Forest. IFRC supports the consolidation of intermingled ownerships if the balance of ownership of commercial forest land can be maintained between private and public lands. It is essential that this commercial forest land remain available for timber harvest if the delicate timber supply balance in the Gallatin National Forest is to be maintained. We request that the language in Sec. 8(b) be changed to include timber harvest.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT Sec. 11

As previously stated on page five under SPECIAL MANAGEMENT, IFRC is opposed to this type of legislation. The planning process is not complete and we are still working with the Forest Service to make some changes in the draft plans. If the language in this section of the Bill is to be retained, it should only apply to the first generation of forest plans and then return the lands to the NFMA planning process. Congress should only address the question of Wilderness or non-Wilderness as directed by


MOUNTAINS
Siderock Mtn
WELCOME CREEK
Cinnabar Pk
Cinnamon Bear
HARRYS FLAT
PARALUSE
MOUNTAINS
Green Mtn
SIRIA
Fisher
Ram Mtn
SKALKAHO
GRANITE
Quigg Peak - FS
Non Commercial Forest Land
- - - Forest Industry Bdy

the Montana Wilderness Study Act PL 95-150.

WEST PIONEER RECREATION AREA Sec. 11(a)

The area included in the proposed area contains large acreages of commercial forest land. The forest products industry has not agreed to allow this acreage to remain in a non-timber category. We believe there are timber harvest opportunities that the Forest Service failed to address.

MIDDLE FORK JUDITH RECREATION AREA Sec. 11(c)

The Middle Fork of the Judith area contains approximately 39,200 acres of commercial forest land with a conservative potential yield of 3.34 million board feet annually. There is a standing volume of 460 million board feet. This area is essential to the survival of the small sawmills at Hobson and Judith Gap. The commercial forest land is intermingled with non-commercial lands and the area does not lend itself to a single land use designation.

BIG SNOWIES RECREATION AREA Sec. 11(d)

The periphery of the Snowy Mountains is commercial forest land. These lands (49,900 acres) must remain in the commercial timber base if the timber industry is to remain viable in Lewistown and Judith Gap. The Big Snowies has a standing volume of 317 million board feet with a conservative potential yield of 3.41 million board feet annually. The central Snowies is non-commercial forest land and will likely remain roadless under any management proposal.

Senator **Melcher**. Thank you.
Keith Olson.

STATEMENT OF KEITH L. OLSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION, KALISPELL, MT

Mr. **Olson**. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, as the record indicates my name is Keith Olson. I reside in Kalispell, MT, where I am employed as the executive director of the Montana Logging Association. Our organization represents 546 independent logging contractors from throughout the timbered regions of Montana. Our members in turn directly employ approximately 3,000 to 4,000 Montanans in the logging industry.

This is my first trip to Washington, DC, and in the little over 12 hours I have been here I can sincerely thank God there are no taxicabs in Kalispell.

The brief testimony of the Montana Logging Association essentially tells you that our organization is not here to oppose the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984 in its entirety. The overwhelming message Montana's four congressional delegates received at the public hearings held in Montana last summer was that Montanans want the wilderness controversy resolved.

I grant you every special interest group represented had a different concept of how to resolve the controversy and that discrepancy exists here today and will exist even after a Montana wilderness bill is passed by Congress. But we have a bill before us, and as expected, nobody is ecstatic about what has been proposed.

Nonetheless, Montana's congressional delegation, to their credit, bit the bullet and reached a collective compromise. At this point and time, the Montana Logging Association cannot set before this subcommittee and testify that S. 2850 will destroy the logging industry in Montana. Thus, our reluctant support for the act, and I emphasize the word reluctant.

We are sincerely concerned, however, that some of the 1,254,410 acres designated for wilderness and/or special management, both of which preclude logging activity, may threaten the long-term survival of the existing Montana forest product manufacturing facilities. Therefore, we respectfully request that the subcommittee make every effort to accommodate the boundary adjustments sought by forest product manufacturers who present testimony to this subcommittee, that such boundary adjustments are necessary for their survival.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the Montana Logging Association does not oppose the act as proposed. However, should this act be substantially modified to include more wilderness or should this act be killed, our spirit of compromise will undoubtedly die with it.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Olson follows:]

MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 1716
Kalispell, Montana 59903-1716
406-755-3185

TESTIMONY

of

Keith L. Olson, Executive Director

of the

Montana Logging Association

on S.2850, the proposed

MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

before the

Senate Energy Committee, Public Lands Subcommittee

in

Washington D.C.

on

August 9, 1984

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE:

My name is Keith L. Olson. I reside in Kalispell, Montana, where I am employed as the executive director of the Montana Logging Association. Our organization represents 546 independent logging contractors from throughout the timbered regions of Montana. Our members, in turn, employ approximately 3,000 Montanans in the logging industry.

AS A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP, OUR POSITION ON FURTHER WILDERNESS PROPOSALS IN MONTANA IS QUITE PREDICTABLE -- WE BELIEVE MONTANA HAS ENOUGH WILDERNESS. HOWEVER, AS REGARDS THE REALISTIC SIDE OF THE WILDERNESS ISSUE, WE BELIEVE MONTANA'S FOUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES HAVE DONE AN ACCEPTABLE JOB OF EFFECTING A COMPROMISE WHICH, AT LEASE IN THEIR COLLECTIVE MINDS, SATISFIES THE NEEDS OF THE MAJORITY OF MONTANANS.

THE PRIMARY MESSAGE I BRING BEFORE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE FROM THE MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION IS THAT WE WANT A WILDERNESS BILL FROM THIS CONGRESS. THE WILDERNESS ISSUE, OR MORE PROPERLY, LACK OF A FIXED TIMBER BASE FROM WHICH MONTANA'S ALLOWABLE CUT CAN BE PROJECTED, HAS PLAGUED OUR INDUSTRY FOR FAR TOO MANY YEARS. IT IS TIME FOR CONGRESS TO DECIDE WHICH FEDERAL LANDS IN MONTANA WILL BE LOCKED-UP AND WHICH FEDERAL LANDS WILL BE RELEASED FOR MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT BY PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE MANAGERS. THAT WAS THE OVERWHELMING MESSAGE MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES RECEIVED AT THE FOUR PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD IN MONTANA LAST SUMMER AND IT'S TIME TO GET ON WITH THE PROCESS.

AS FOR THE PROPOSED "MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984" (S.2850), THE MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION OFFERS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ACT:

SECTION 2. WE ACCEPT THE PURPOSE OF THE ACT AS STATED, TO "DESIGNATE CERTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN THE STATE OF MONTANA AS COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS SYSTEM...AND...INSURE THAT CERTAIN OTHER NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN THE STATE OF MONTANA BE AVAILABLE FOR NONWILDERNESS MULTIPLE USES."

SECTION 3. WE CHOOSE NOT TO OPPOSE THE 21 WILDERNESS PROPOSALS INVOLVING 747,178 ACRES AS DESIGNATED IN THE ACT; HOWEVER, WE SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE PAY SPECIAL HEED TO THE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS SOUGHT BY THOSE INDIVIDUAL FOREST PRODUCT MANUFACTURING FACILITIES WHO TESTIFY SUCH ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THEIR LONG-TERM SURVIVAL.

SECTION 6. WE ACCEPT THE SUFFICIENCY LANGUAGE IN THIS ACT AS STATED FOR RARE II LANDS IN MONTANA.

SECTION 7. WE ESPECIALLY APPROVE OF THE LANGUAGE IN THE ACT AS IT RELATES TO "PROTECTIVE PERIMETERS OR BUFFER ZONES AROUND EACH WILDERNESS AREA." ALL SET-ASIDE TIMBERLANDS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR LITERAL DESIGNATION ARE, IN FACT, BREEDING GROUNDS FOR THE DESTRUCTIVE NATURAL ENEMIES WHICH PREY ON THE RENEWABLE TIMBER RESOURCE. WITNESS THE 5 MILLION ACRES OF TIMBERLAND IN MONTANA CURRENTLY UNDER SEIGE TO INSECTS AND SUBJECT TO THE INEVITABLE CONSEQUENCES OF FOREST FIRE. AS LOGGERS WE HAVE NO QUALMS WITH THE RESTRICTED USES PRESCRIBED FOR WILDERNESS AND THE LIKE; HOWEVER, IF WE ARE TO PERMIT THESE SET-ASIDE AREAS TO BECOME RESERVOIRS OF INFESTATION, WE MUST BE ALLOWED TO CONFRONT INFESTATIONS AT THE IMMEDIATE BOUNDARY OF THESE RESERVES.

SECTIONS 8,9,10,11,12 & 13. WHEREAS, THESE SECTIONS PROPOSE 507,232 ACRES FOR "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT" WHICH EXCLUDES LOGGING ACTIVITY, THE ACT, IN EFFECT, CREATES 1,254,410 ACRES OF WILDERNESS AS FAR AS THE TIMBER INDUSTRY IS CONCERNED. NONETHELESS, WE RELUCTANTLY CHOOSE NOT TO OPPOSE THESE DESIGNATIONS, BUT AGAIN, SPECIFICALLY REQUEST THIS SUBCOMMITTEE PAY HEED TO BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS REQUESTED BY FOREST

PRODUCT MANUFACTURING FACILITIES. OUR DECISION NOT TO OPPOSE "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT" DESIGNATIONS COMES AFTER MEETINGS WITH EACH OF MONTANA'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATES. THEY ARE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR BELIEF THAT A PUBLIC EXISTS IN MONTANA WHICH IS NOT REPRESENTED BY ANY OF THE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS APPEARING BEFORE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE. OUR ORGANIZATION DOES NOT INTEND TO SIT BEFORE THIS SUBCOMMITTEE AND DISPUTE THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH A CITIZENRY.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHAIRMAN, THE MONTANA LOGGING ASSOCIATION RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS THAT THIS SUBCOMMITTEE PASS THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984 (S.2850), AS PROPOSED, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINIMAL BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS WHICH SHOULD NOT CHANGE THE OVERALL SCOPE OF THE ACT.

STATEMENT OF NICHOLAS J. KIRKMIRE, VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE AFFAIRS, PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO., INC., SEATTLE, WA

Mr. KIRKMIRE. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, I am Nick Kirkmore, vice president of corporate affairs for Plum Creek Timber Co., a wholly owned subsidiary of Burlington Northern, Inc. Our company manages 177,000 acres of forest land within the Gallatin National Forest, which is owned by Burlington Northern Railroad Co.

Section 14 of S. 2850 directs an exchange of lands owned and managed by BN for National Forest System lands. We have been working with the Forest Service on this exchange, which we call the Porcupine exchange, since 1981. We believe that section 14 would benefit from several technical language modifications which are set out in an attachment to our testimony. I wish at this time to express our appreciation to you, Senator Melcher, and Senator Baucus and the other members of the Montana congressional delegation for including the Porcupine exchange in S. 2850 and for your timely introduction to this bill, which would significantly remove the controversy over future land use allocation in the national forests in Montana.

We are anxious to have the Porcupine exchange included as quickly as possible, so we hope for prompt enactment of S. 2850.

Also, for the record, I am submitting to the subcommittee written testimony by G.W. Thompson supporting an exchange of Custer National Forest coal rights and severed mineral rights in areas proposed for wilderness designation in S. 2850.

Mr. Thompson is president and chief executive officer of Meridian Land & Mineral Co., a sister company in the B&I family. This is submitted along with letters to the same purpose by other Custer National Forest inholders, and a draft amendment which represents a proposal for the exchange.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on S. 2850. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kirkmire and Mr. Thompson follow:]

STATEMENT OF
NICHOLAS J. KIRKMIRE
PLUM CREEK TIMBER COMPANY, INC.
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE
REGARDING
S.2850
THE "MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984"
AUGUST 9, 1984

I am Nicholas J. Kirkmire, Vice President Corporate Affairs for Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Burlington Northern Inc. Our Company manages 177,000 acres of forest land within the Gallatin National Forest which is owned by Burlington Northern Railroad Company.

Section 14 of S.2850 directs an exchange of lands owned and managed by BN for National Forest System lands. We have been working with the Forest Service on this exchange, which we call the Porcupine exchange, since 1981. We believe that Section 14 would benefit from several technical language modifications which are set out in an attachment to our testimony. I wish, at this time, to express our appreciation to Senator Melcher and the other members of the Montana Congressional Delegation for including the Porcupine exchange in S.2850 and for their timely introduction of this bill which would significantly remove the controversy over future land use allocation in the National Forests in Montana. We are anxious to have the Porcupine exchange concluded as quickly as possible, so we hope for prompt enactment of S.2850.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to take this opportunity to briefly mention activities involving one of Plum Creek's sister companies, the Meridian Land & Mineral Company, regarding another area important to future resource management in Montana -- the Custer National Forest. As the Committee will recall, Section 522(e) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, passed in 1977, prohibited surface mining of the considerable coal reserves in the Custer National Forest which are held by a number of private owners, including Burlington Northern.

Since that time, litigation and controversy have followed, as Meridian and individual ranchers who own the coal rights have sought either to develop their resources or to be compensated for the inability to do so. Others have sought to continue to protect the Custer National Forest from mining and development. The legal issues remain unresolved, but many of the private inholders, including BN (through Meridian) have begun to search for a resolution, through an exchange of coal rights with the federal government, which would fairly resolve the situation, and end the uncertainty and litigation.

For the record, I am submitting to the subcommittee written testimony by G.W. Thompson supporting an exchange. Mr. Thompson is President and Chief Executive Officer of Meridian. This is submitted along with letters to the same purpose by many of the other Custer National Forest inholders, and a draft amendment which represents a proposal for resolution through exchange.

We appreciate this opportunity to comment on S.2850. I would be pleased to answer any questions.

Thank you.

S. 2850
Montana Wilderness Act of 1984

Amend Section 14 of S. 2850 as follows:

1. Revise the legal description of the sixth parcel listed in the description at the top of page 22 of S. 2850 to read as follows:

"T. 4 S., R. 6 E., Sec. 7; Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, E½W½....
260.20"

2. Revise the legal description of the seventh parcel listed in the same description on page 22 of S. 2850 to read as follows:

"T. 8 S., R. 3 E., Sec. 31; Lots 3, 4, E½SW¼, SE¼....
311.99"

3. Following the legal description of the seventh parcel listed on page 22 of S. 2850 as discussed above, add the following:

"T. 12 N., R. 24 W., Sec. 19; E½NE¼....80.00"

4. Revise the total acreage figure just preceding line 1 on page 22 to read: "8,130.67"

5. Following the legal description of the sixteenth parcel listed under line 5 on page 22, add the following:

"T. 15 N., R. 20 W., Sec. 28; NE¼SW¼....40.00"
"T. 30 N., R. 31 W., Sec. 9; N½NE¼NW¼....10.80"
"T. 31 N., R. 31 W., Sec. 34; Portion SE¼SE¼and
Sec. 35; SW¼SW¼, N½SE¼SW¼,
W½S½SE¼SW¼, NW¼SE¼SE¼SW¼
....83.08"

6. Revise the line just preceding line 6 on page 22 to read:

"National Forest System lands total....9,181.74"

7. Sec. 14(d) - delete second sentence, and substitute:

"The provisions of this section do not authorize the exercise by the Secretary of the power of eminent domain."

8. Section 14(e) - delete entire subsection.

9. Add a new subsection 14(f), as follows:

"(f) The following order of withdrawal, as it applies to the lands conveyed by the United States and involved in the transactions authorized by this section, is hereby revoked:

Executive Order Numbered 30 - Montana 7 - Phosphate Reserve - October 9, 1917 (nine hundred sixty acres, more or less)"

10. Boundary change: Adjust the boundary of the "Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wildlife Area" (Section 8(a)) to exclude the approximately 20 acres contained within T. 8 S., R. 5 E., Sec. 3; SW¼SW¼.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD OF
G.W. THOMPSON
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MERIDIAN LAND & MINERAL COMPANY
SUBMITTED TO THE
SUBCOMMITEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND
RESERVED WATER
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE
AUGUST 9, 1984

PROPOSING THE CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST COAL EXCHANGE AMENDMENT TO S. 2850, THE "MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984"

Mr. Chairman and members of the Subcommittee, my name is G.W. (Bill) Thompson. I am President and Chief Executive Officer of Meridian Land & Mineral Co. (Meridian). Meridian, headquartered in Billings, Montana, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Burlington Northern, Inc., and manages the parent company's minerals, exclusive of oil and gas.

I am pleased to appear before the committee on behalf of Meridian and Burlington Northern, Inc. to ask for your consideration of an amendment to the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984 (S. 2850). This amendment would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to exchange coal interests with the private parties owning coal rights within the Ashland unit of the Custer National Forest in Montana. In addition, it would ensure that an abandoned mine in the same area of the Custer Forest is reclaimed and that some 17,500 acres of fee and mineral inholdings in S. 2850's wilderness and special areas are donated to the federal government. Meridian has worked with other private coal owners in the

Custer Forest in developing this proposed amendment, and we have attached their letters of support to this statement.

Reasons For Amendment

Meridian urges the Committee to adopt this amendment because it ensures continued effective implementation of sound legislative policy while protecting private property rights and providing maximum environmental protection. Section 522(e)(2)(B) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, sponsored by the Senior Senator from Montana, established firm Congressional policy that "no surface coal mining operations may be permitted within the boundaries of the Custer National Forest." This surface mining prohibition affects 28,245 acres of Burlington Northern coal lands and 5485 acres of other privately-owned coal lands in the Ashland unit of the Custer National Forest. Since Section 522(e)(2)(B) prohibits any economic use of these privately owned coal estates, some of these private landowners, including Meridian and Mr. Ted Fletcher, who owns 320 acres of coal land, have sought monetary relief for a taking of their property in the federal courts. In that ongoing litigation, the Department of Justice has taken the position that the surface mining of coal in the Custer National Forest is not precluded, notwithstanding the specific language of the statute.

Whichever view prevails, there are apparently only two possible outcomes if the litigation is pursued. If mining is not permitted as the language of the statute seems to suggest, the landowners who have filed lawsuits will be entitled to monetary relief, a potentially costly result to the federal government and the tax-paying public. If the statute is interpreted not to prohibit mining, the purpose of Section 522(e)(2)(B) will be frustrated because surface mining of coal will be allowed within the Forest. This possibility is not unlikely as the Department of the Interior (DOI) has recently determined, based on regulations interpreting Section 522(e), that the Otter Creek Coal Company should be permitted to mine in the Otter Creek Wilderness in the Monongahela National Forest. DOI's rationale was that the Otter Creek Coal Company had to be allowed to mine to avoid a "taking" of their property because they owned severed mineral rights prior to passage of the law designating the Otter Creek Wilderness and there could be no economic use of the property other than coal mining. The Custer coal owners are in a virtually identical position: their mineral rights in the Forest were acquired prior to enactment of the Surface Mining Act, and coal mining is the only economically viable use of those rights.

Without legislative assistance, then, private coal owners within the Custer National Forest appear to have only two unfortunate alternatives: (1) continue to pursue expensive inverse condemnation lawsuits to receive cash compensation for a taking of their property, or (2) undertake surface mining in the Custer Forest in contravention of Congressional policy and the public interest. Because we and other landowners feel neither alternative represents a sensible solution to the problem, we have proposed the coal exchanges authorized by this amendment to satisfy both the landowners' needs and the Congressional mandate to protect the natural resource values in the Custer Forest. In addition, this amendment would provide further environmental protection by confining the exchange of coal to existing mining areas, thus avoiding the opening of new mines in currently undisturbed areas.

The coal exchanges proposed in this amendment are not without precedent. Examples of previous laws which transferred coal development away from environmentally sensitive areas and into areas more appropriate for mining include the following:

1. Section 510(b)(5) of SMCRA authorized a coal exchange program to remove mining from environmentally sensitive alluvial valley floors;
2. The West Virginia Wilderness Act (Act of January 13, 1983, P.L. 97-466, 96 Stat. 2536) authorized a program to exchange coal out of the Cranberry Wilderness within the Monongahela National Forest;
3. The Northern Cheyenne Exchange Act (Act of October 9, 1980, P.L. 96-401, 84 Stat. 1701) authorized the transfer of coal development rights off the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

Explanation of Amendment

The proposed amendment has three parts:

1. Subsection (a) directs the government to exchange private coal interests in the Ashland unit of the Custer Forest for federal coal in existing mining areas in Montana;
2. Subsection (b) provides for the reclamation of the abandoned Coal Creek Mining Company surface coal mining operation in the Ashland Unit of the Custer National Forest;

3. Subsection (c) provides for the donation of Burlington Northern lands in western Montana to the U.S. Forest Service to help preserve wilderness, scenic and wildlife values in the wilderness and special areas that would be designated in S. 2850.

The coal exchanges mandated in subsection (a) reinforce and implement the legislative intent of Section 522(e)(2)(B) prohibiting surface coal mining in the Custer Forest in a manner equitable to private landowners. The private landowners will receive in-kind compensation for the loss of their property rights, and the Forest Service will receive full ownership of all coal rights within the Custer Forest thus ensuring there is no possibility of coal mining in the Forest. The Secretary of the Interior would be directed to complete all exchanges within two years, thereby providing an expeditious resolution of the private landowners' claims.

The landowners would receive in exchange fee and lessor interests in federal coal already under development in Montana. This approach transfers coal development from the unacceptable Custer Forest area where Congress has said mining is unacceptable to areas where it has already been determined that coal development is the most appropriate land use and where mines have already been opened. The amendment's approach avoids foreclosing competitive leasing opportunities for unleased federal coal by exchanging only coal already under lease. It also precludes the new private owners from becoming coal mining operators on their acquired federal coal because that coal is already being mined by other operators. The concept of transferring federal mineral interests already subject to leases has precedent in federal law: the Congress previously transferred such federal fee and lessor mineral interests in conveyances to Alaska Native corporations under Section 14(g) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (43 U.S.C. Section 1613(g)).

The private and federal coal interests would be exchanged on the basis of a ratio of coal tonnage, rather than by the more common equal value exchange methodology. Using existing coal drilling data, the amount of coal reserves will be calculated, and the government will receive one ton of private coal in the Custer Forest for every ton of federal coal transferred to the private landowners. We believe that, by having this agreed upon ratio in the legislation, it will reduce the administrative costs of the exchanges by eliminating the need for additional costly and environmentally disruptive coal drilling within the Custer Forest and for extensive economic evaluations. To equitably compensate the private landowners, the ratio takes into account relative coal quality, stripping ratios, mining methods, and the interests of the State of Montana.

The existing federal coal lessees are fully protected because they would be closely consulted prior to an exchange and would retain all their contractual rights under the federal lease, unless and until they and the private landowners willingly renegotiate new lease terms. Meridian has discussed this exchange program with two federal lessees and they support the concept.

The amendment also includes a special provision to protect the State of Montana's interest in federal coal lease revenues.

The State currently receives 50% of federal coal lease revenues under Section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, 30 U.S.C. Section 191). After transfer of the federal coal lease to the private party, the lease would no longer be governed by the 1920 Act. Therefore, to ensure continued State participation in lease revenues, we have included a provision to grant the State of Montana a 50% interest in all royalties paid on the production of the transferred federal coal.

In sum, we believe that the Custer Forest coal exchanges would be fair to all interested groups: (1) fair to the intent of Congress and the federal government, in fulfilling the statutory purposes of § 522(e)(2)(B) of the Surface Mining Act; (2) fair to current and future users of the unspoiled Custer National Forest; (3) fair to current private coal owners who will receive equitable compensation for their displaced property rights; (4) fair to existing federal coal lessees, who retain their lease rights and who would be free to renegotiate more desirable lease terms; (5) fair to the State of Montana, which will continue to receive lease revenues; and (6) fair to environmental interests by insuring that surface mining will not occur in the Custer National Forest and in transferring the private mineral interests to areas that are already being mined rather than to undisturbed areas.

To make this amendment even more attractive to all interested parties and to enhance the principal wilderness protection purpose of S. 2850, Burlington Northern has agreed to take two additional unprecedented actions. First, Meridian has agreed to work with the Montana Department of State Lands and the owners of the Coal

Creek Mining Company to ensure that a reclamation program is undertaken at the Coal Creek Mine in the Custer Forest. This is the only surface coal mining operation in the Custer Forest and it has been abandoned without adequate reclamation.

Second, Burlington Northern has agreed to donate to the U.S. Forest Service about 17,450 acres of Burlington Northern lands in western Montana which lie within the wilderness and special areas designated elsewhere in S. 2850. The Flathead and Lola National Forests would receive about 7600 acres of severed mineral interests within the Swan Front and Clearwater-Monture Additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The Gallatin National Forest would receive about 1292 acres of fee lands and 8560 acres of severed mineral interests within the Hyalite Peak Scenic Area and Porcupine-Buffalo Wildlife Area. These donations will simplify and consolidate Forest Service ownership in these areas, remove the threat of future mining there, and clear the way for these areas to be managed for their wilderness values.

Conclusion

Meridian hopes the Committee will give the attached proposed amendment favorable consideration. We appreciate this opportunity to submit for the record our statement and supporting letters by other landowners in the Custer National Forest. We would be happy to provide further information regarding the proposed amendment to Committee Members or their staffs.

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST EXCHANGE

AMENDMENT TO S. 2850

("Montana Wilderness Act of 1984")

On page 23, renumber section 15 as section 16 and insert the following new section 15 between lines 16 and 17:

> "Sec. 15 (a)(1) In furtherance of the policy of section 522(e)(2)(B) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S. 1272 (e)(2) (B)) to proscribe surface coal mining in the Custer National Forest, the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized and directed to complete coal exchanges in accordance with this subsection (a) to eliminate private mineral rights to coal in the Ashland unit of the Custer National Forest (hereinafter referred to as "private coal rights"). The Secretary is authorized and directed to offer to each person or corporation owning private coal rights (hereinafter referred to as "private exchange party") an exchange of such rights for the federal fee and lessor interests in federal coal in Montana which is included in a federal coal lease or leases and which lease or leases are either under production or within a logical

mining unit under production (hereinafter referred to as "federal coal"). The amount and value of the federal coal and private coal rights to be exchanged shall be determined in accordance with paragraph (6) of this subsection.

(2) Selection of the federal coal for each exchange shall be made by the Secretary (with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture if the federal coal is located within the boundaries of a unit of the national forest system) and the appropriate private exchange party, after consultation with the lessee or lessees of the federal coal. Where the Secretary is unable to convey the full amount of federal coal embraced in a federal coal lease, the Secretary is authorized to divide the lease tract and convey a portion of the federal coal to the private exchange party.

(3) Any exchange pursuant to this subsection shall vest in the private exchange party the full federal fee and lessor interests in federal coal. The terms of each federal coal lease applicable to transferred federal coal shall continue to apply to said coal until the

lease expires or is renegotiated between the private exchange party and the lessee, or their assignees.

(4) Any exchange pursuant to this subsection shall vest in the federal government the full private coal rights of the private exchange party. Mineral rights in minerals other than coal in the Ashland unit of the Custer National Forest owned by any private exchange party shall be reserved to said party unless said party and the Secretary agree to exchange such mineral rights for federal coal of equal value in Montana.

(5) The State of Montana (hereinafter referred to as the "State") shall be entitled to receive a fifty-percent undivided interest in any royalties which are paid on production of the federal coal transferred to private exchange parties. The royalty interest of the State established by this paragraph shall not entitle the State to participate in the selection of the federal coal to be exchanged or in the negotiation, renegotiation, execution, or management of leases for said coal after completion of the exchanges.

(6) The amount of in-place coal reserves included within the private coal rights and the federal coal to be exchanged shall be calculated on the basis of existing drilling information. The Secretary shall transfer to each private exchange party one long ton of federal in-place coal reserves for each long ton of private in-place coal reserves transferred by said party to the Secretary.

(7) The exchanges provided for in this subsection shall be completed within two years of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) Meridian Land and Mineral Company, owner of the coal interests dedicated to the Coal Creek Mine within the Custer National Forest, shall ensure that a program is undertaken within five years of enactment of this Act to reclaim the coal mining area included in Montana Strip and Underground Operation Permit No. 80009-C and that reclamation of such area is completed in a timely manner. Nothing in this subsection shall relieve the permit holder or any other party from any reclamation responsibilities imposed by law or contract.

(c) The Congress understands that Burlington Northern Inc. and its subsidiaries have agreed to donate to the federal government within two years of enactment of this Act all fee and severed mineral interests (comprising approximately seventeen thousand four hundred and fifty acres) owned by said company and its subsidiaries within the Swan Front Addition and Clearwater-Monture Addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Hyalite Peak Scenic Area, and the Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wildlife Area (excluding those interests described in section 14 of this Act). The exchange to said company and/or subsidiaries provided for in subsection (a) of this section shall be completed subsequent to said donation, but the donation shall not entitle the company and/or subsidiaries to receive any additional federal coal in such exchange."

STATEMENT OF RICHARD O. RYDEEN, AREA MANAGER, LOUSIANA-PACIFIC CORP., DEER LODGE, MT

Mr. Rydeen. Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Energy Committee, Public Lands and Reserve Water, my name is Dick Rydeen and I am the area manager for Louisiana-Pacific Corp., residing in Deer Lodge, MT.

Five of Louisiana-Pacific's plants use Montana timber resources. These operations include Deer Lodge, Missoula, and Trout Creek, MT. Sawmills in Rexburg and Moyie Springs, ID, rely partially on Montana timber.

To specifically address the economic impact one sawmill has on one community, at Deer Lodge we employ 250 people with an annual payroll of over $5.5 million. In 1983, the mill provided Powell County with over $59,000 in property taxes. This property tax and the revenue derived from the U.S. Forest Service's 25 percent fund amounted to 17 percent of Powell County's total budget. This figure does not include taxes paid by employees.

Louisiana-Pacific's Deer Lodge mill relies on the Deer Lodge, Beaverhead and national forests for 60 percent of its resource requirements. Other lumber manufacturers relying on timber from these forests are Pyramid Mountain Lumber, E.H. Stoltze, Champion International, Brand S, Eagle, Sorenson, and Magera Lumber Co. In the past 8 years, we have watched the demise of five sawmills within a 40-mile radius because of the increased competition for the shrinking annual sale volume.

If a one line summation was to be made about the subcommittee hearing during the summer of 1983, it would be the unifying request for an omnibus wilderness bill for Montana. Thanks to our delegation, we now have a proposed wilderness bill. In order to have a viable timber industry in Montana, however, some minor boundary, classification and language changes will have to be incorporated into the final wilderness bill.

Provided in the remaining portion of this testimony is a letter signed by owners of three local mills and our specific recommendations that should be incorporated into the final Montana Wilderness Act to help stabilize the timber industry in our great State of Montana.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Rydeen follows:]

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation

P.O. Box 389
Deer Lodge, Montana 59722
406/846-1600

S. 2850

THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTE ON
PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVE WATER
WASHINGTON, D. C.
AUGUST 9, 1984

by

Richard O. Rydeen
Area Manager
Louisiana-Pacific Corporation
Deer Lodge, Montana

Mr. Chairman and members of the Senate Energy Committee, Public Lands and Reserve Water Subcommittee - my name is Dick Rydeen and I am the area manager for Louisiana-Pacific Corporation residing in Deer Lodge, Montana.

Five of Louisiana-Pacific's plants use Montana timber resources. These operations include Deer Lodge, Missoula (Particle Board) and Trout Creek, Montana. Sawmills in Rexburg and Moyie Springs, Idaho rely partially on Montana timber.

To specifically address the economic impact one sawmill has on one community: at Deer Lodge we employ 250 people with an annual payroll of $5,500,000.00. In 1983, the mill provided Powell County with $59,911.00 in property taxes. This property tax and the revenue derived from the United States Forests Services' 25% fund amounted to 17% of Powell County's total budget. This figure does not include taxes paid by employees.

Louisiana-Pacific's Deer Lodge mill relies on the Deerlodge, Beaverhead, and Helena National Forests for 60% of its resource requirements. Other lumber manufacturers relying on timber from these forests are: Pyramid Mountain Lumber, E. H. Stoltze Land and Lumber, Champion International, Brand S Corporation, Eagle Stud, Sorenson Brothers Lumber and Magera Lumber. In the past eight years we have watched the demise of five sawmills within a forty mile radius because of increased competition for the shrinking annual sale volume.

If a one line summation was to be made about the Subcommittee hearing during the summer of 1983 - it would be the unifying request for an omnibus Wilderness Bill for Montana. Thanks to our delegation, we now have a proposed Wilderness Bill. In order to have a viable timber industry in Montana, however, some minor boundary, classification, and language changes will have to be incorporated into the final Wilderness Bill.

Provided in the remaining portion of this testimony is a letter signed by owners of three local mills and our specific recommendations that will need to be incorporated into the final Montana Wilderness Act to help stabilize the timber industry in our great state of Montana.

The RARE 11 roadless areas within our working circle are as follows:

Roadless Area	# Acres	Roadless Potential Yield-MMBF/Yr.	Delegation's Proposal		L-P's Proposal	
			# Acres	Yield-MMBF/Yr.	# Acres	Yield-MMBF/Yr.
Stony	99,485	4.4				
Sapphire	98,648	5.6		*5.6		
Electric Peak	46,028	2.4	30,700	1.7		
Flint	52,340	2.5	40,000	1.0	31,200	0.2
Upper East Fork	7,650	0.3	6,300	0.2		
Quigg	60,050	1.3	44,160	1.1	44,160	1.1
West Pioneer	148,150	4.7	68,074	1.0	68,074	1.0
East Pioneer	94,091	3.4	74,100	0.7	68,212	0.4
West Bighole	130,511	3.6	58,000	1.6	17,000	0.3
North Bighole	56,393	2.4	11,300	0.6	11,300	0.6
Lazyman	13,000	0.5				
Elkhorn	85,800	2.1	85,760	2.1		
Storm Lake	9,700	0.1	9,200	0.1	6,600	0.1
	901,846	33.3	427,594	15.7	246,546	3.7

*Figures included here until the area is released to the Forest Planning Process.

The Electric Peak Area (Exhibit B) is 14 miles to the east of Deer Lodge. The elevation ranges from 6,300 feet on the Little Blackfoot River to 8,600 feet at the top of Thunderbolt Mountain. The proposed Wilderness is 30,700 acres of which 60% is located on the Helena National Forest and 40% is located on the Deerlodge National Forest. The area included 15,431 acres of commercial forest on the Helena and 8,445 acres of commercial forests on the Deerlodge National Forest. All totaled - 78% of the area is commercial forest lands. The Deerlodge National Forest is currently in the process of evaluating their portion of the proposed wilderness area in regards to developing the area (Exhibit C).

During the winter months, the area receives heavy use from snowmobilers. The Deer Lodge Snowmobile Club used the Electric Peak Area as one of its two primary snowmobile use areas. During the summer months, there are trails on the Deerlodge National Forest used by trail bikes.

Because of the commercial forest and motorized recreation, our recommendation is for non-wilderness classification for this area.

The Flint Range Area (Exhibit D) is only 10 miles to the west of Deer Lodge. The elevation ranges from 6,000 feet to the 10,300 foot Mount Powell. The 40,000 acre proposed wilderness includes 15,000 acres of commercial timber lands and a large number of developed lakes.

The motorized recreation in this area is very heavy. There is concentrated use from Deer Lodge, Anaconda, Philipsburg, Drummond, and Missoula. The area is used heavily by snowmobilers during the winter months. There are trails throughout the range and some are even groomed. During the summer months, most of the developed lakes can be accessed by either 4-wheelers or trail bikes.

Our proposal for this area is to remove the commercial forests from the west side, accessed by Boulder Creek, remove all of the developed lakes from any area, and classify the Flint Range as Special Management (Exhibit D).

The Upper East Fork Area (Exhibit E) is 49 miles southwest of Deer Lodge. The elevation ranges from 6,200 feet to 9,500 feet. There are 6,300 acres in the addition to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. The area contains 4,380 acres of commercial timberland and a 3,000MBF timber sale scheduled to sell in 1991 (Exhibit F).

Our proposal is to eliminate the Upper East Fork Area from the Wilderness designation.

The Storm Lake Area (Exhibit E) is 43 miles southwest of Deer Lodge. The elevation ranges from 8,200 feet to 10,641 feet. The 9,200 acre addition to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness has one main attribute. It contains a very heavily used snowmobile trail between Storm Lake and Twin Lakes. Our recommendation is to eliminate the portion from your proposal that the snowmobilers use.

The Quigg Area (Exhibit G) is 71 miles west of Deer Lodge. The proposed wilderness is 44,160 acres of which 26,350 acres is commercial timberlands. Our proposal for this area is to remove 17,280 acres from the southeast portion of the area under discussion.

The Stony Area is 98,000 acres and will be released under this bill. A majority of this area is commercial timberland and must remain released.

The Sapphire Area (Exhibit H) is 92,000 acres and still remains quasi-wilderness under S393. There are 63,640 acres of commercial timberland within this area. This area must be decided upon along with Blue Joint if we are to have an omnibus wilderness bill for Montana. Our recommendation is to have this area released to the Forest Planning process.

The East Pioneer Area (Exhibit I) is 66 miles south of Deer Lodge. The elevation ranges from 6,400 feet to the 11,147 foot Torrey Mountain. The proposed wilderness is 74,100 acres. The lower elevations do contain commercial forest land.

There is snowmobile use and some trail bike use in the proposed area. Also, the area is highly mineralized.

Our proposal is to eliminate 6,400 acres of commercial forest land from the northwest portion of the Wilderness proposal. The new wilderness boundary would follow trail number 43 south to the junction of trail number 269 and then south down trail 269 to the proposed wilderness boundary.

The West Pioneer Area is 63 miles wouth of Deer Lodge. The elevation ranges from 6,100 feet to the 9,497 foot Stine Mountain. The proposed Special Management area is 68,074 acres. There is commercial forestland within this area.

There are all forms of motorized recreational use in this area and it is also highly mineralized.

Our recommendation is to leave this area as classified. However, if this area is changed to wilderness, we cannot support the proposal.

The North Big Hole Area is an 11,300 acre proposed addition to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. A major portion of the area contains commercial timberlands. We could accept the loss of the included timberland if there is no additional area included in the final wilderness bill.

The Swift Creek and Needle Creek proposed additions to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness contain commercial timberland and we must oppose their additions into the wilderness system.

The West Big Hole Area is 58,000 acres proposed for further study. The elevation ranges between 6,400 feet and 10,621 feet. The area is heavily used by snowmobilers and receives some summer motorized use. A major portion of the lower elevation contains commercial timberland.

We could support a 17,000 acre core special management or wilderness. However, we could not support such a classification for a larger area.

The Italian Peak Area is 12,800 acres proposed for wilderness. We have always agreed to this classification. However, we do know that the mining industry is very interested in this area.

The Lionhead Area (Exhibit J) is a 24,500 acre proposed wilderness. We have always agreed to a 16,700 acre wilderness in this area. Our wilderness proposal would remove a portion of the commercial timberland along both the east and west sides of your proposal.

The Trout Creek Area is located 7 miles south of Trout Creek, Montana. The area is 12,600 acres, contains 8,400 acres of commercial timberland and a high potential for oil and gas. The RARE II analysis shows only one other proposed wilderness area in Montana with a higher site productivity rating than Trout Creek (108 CF/AC/YR). Of the 12,600 acres proposed, 8,400 acres is classified as land suitable for timber production with current standing inventories of 75MMBF merchantable timber. Not included are the unmerchantable young, vigorous stands of natural reproduction, regenerated following the 1910 burn, which characterizes a large portion of Trout Creek.

Since there is 75,000 MBF of standing inventories within this area, we cannot support a wilderness designation for Trout Creek.

The Scotchman Peaks Area (Exhibit K) is located 41 miles northwest of Trout Creek. The area is 41,100 acres, contains 18,500 acres of commercial timberland and has a very high mineral potential - especially copper and silver.

Without boundary changes, we cannot support a wilderness designation for this area. Our proposal is for 27,644 acres of wilderness.

The McKay Creek Area is located 16 miles north of Trout Creek. The area is 5,054 acres and because most of the area contains commercial timberland, we cannot support the wilderness designation.

The Chippewa Creek Area is located 29 miles north of Trout Creek. The area is 1,350 acres and we can only support a wilderness designation for 1,037 acres because of the good commercial timberland located on 313 acres.

The Cabinet Face West Area is located 44 miles north of Trout Creek. The area is 6,866 acres and we can support the wilderness designation.

The Cabinet Face East Area is a proposed 17,357 acre addition to the Cabinet Wilderness. Since there are heavy concentrations of commercial timberlands in the Parameter Creek and Cedar Creek drainages as well as the north end of the proposed addition, 4,000 acres of commercial timberland will have to be removed before we will accept this addition.

The Hoodoo Area is a proposed 91,600 acre wilderness in Montana and is continuous to a proposed 120,000 acre wilderness in Idaho. Because of the commercial timberlands involved in this proposal, the eastern half of the northern unit and all of the south unit must be eliminated from the proposed wilderness.

Exhibit A - letter from 3 local mills

EAGLE STUD MILL, INC.
HALL, MONTANA

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 7157
Missoula, MT 59807

Telephone:
Mill: (406) 288-3289
Office: (406) 549-6148

August 3, 1984

John Melcher
Washington, D.C.

Senator Melcher:

Dear Sir:

This letter represents three small sawmills in the Drummond, Montana area. We directly employ approximately 60 people. We depend upon Forest Service Timber to keep our mills running. There are four proposed wilderness areas that take in a substantial volume of timber. These are: Flint Range, Quigg Peak, Electric Peak and Upper East Fork of Rock Creek. If these areas are made into wilderness, the effect on our operations will be serious. We, in fact, could be put out of business. We believe these areas can be managed as multiple use areas. If these areas are"locked up" as wilderness areas, we lose all options of management.

When we lose this, we lose a resource that is our life-blood.

We cannot exist without this resource.

We are opposed to locking up stands of merchantable timber in these four areas. The Forest Service should be allowed to manage these areas for all people, not just a few hikers and campers.

Sincerely,

Lee Alt, Manager Eagle Stud Mill, Inc.

Lee Alt, Pres.

Frank Magera, Magera Lbr. Co.

Frank Magera Pres.

Dean Sorensen, Sorensen Brothers Lbr. Co.

Dean Sorensen

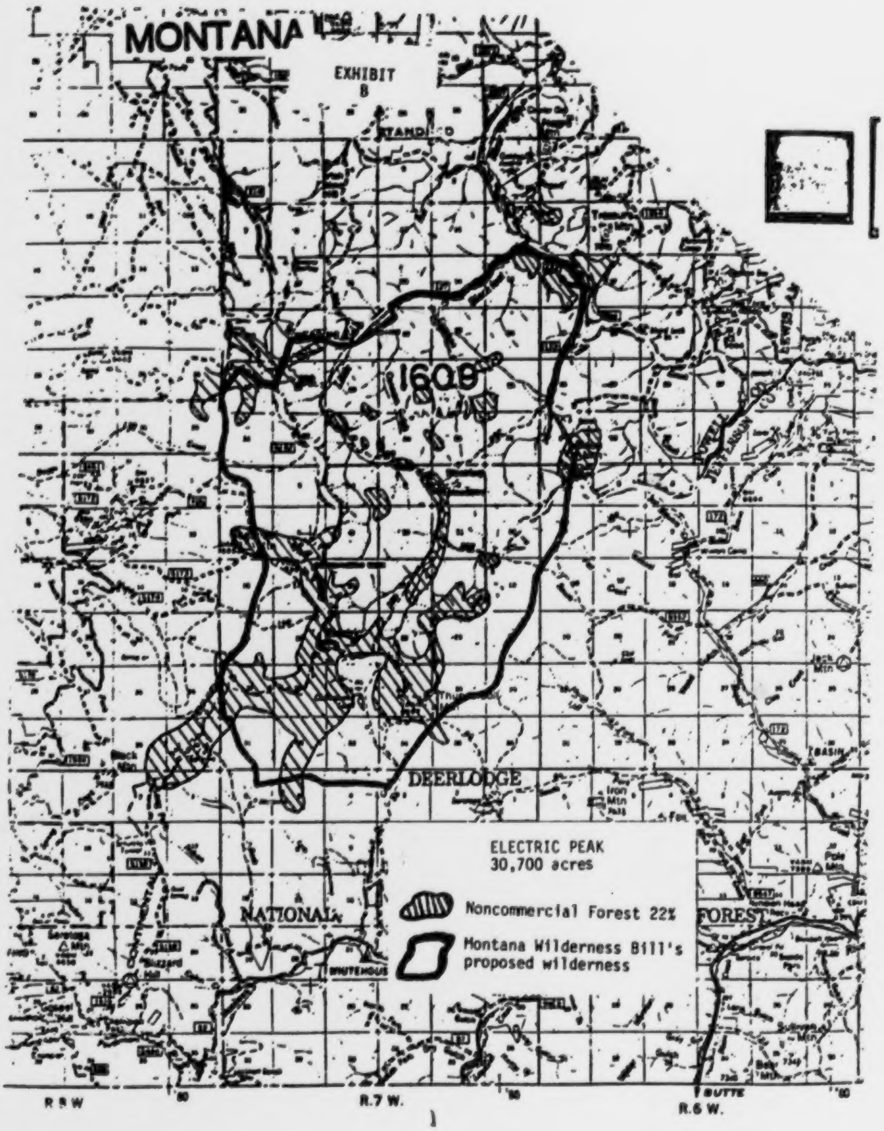

MONTANA
EXHIBIT
B
1609
DEERLODGE
NATIONAL
FOREST
Black Mtn
Iron Mtn
BASIN
WHITEHOUSE
BUTTE
ELECTRIC PEAK
30,700 acres
Noncommercial Forest 22%
Montana Wilderness Bill's proposed wilderness
R 8 W
R.7 W.
R.6 W.

EXHIBIT
C

United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Jefferson Ranger District
P.O. Box "F"
405 West Legion
Whitehall, MT 59759

Reply to 2410

Date June 7, 1984

Louisiana-Pacific Corporation
ATTN: David J. Hammons, Resource Manager
P.O. Box 389
Deer Lodge, MT 59722

RECEIVED
JUN 9 1984
LOUISIANA-PACIFIC CORP.
DEER LODGE, MONTANA

Gentlemen:

We wish to inform you of progress on the analysis of the Electric Indian area for possible development, that is, road construction and logging. To this date we have defined public issues, developed criteria for evaluating alternatives, and developed alternatives. In addition to these activities we have corresponded with a number of individuals concerned with different aspects of developing this area, and had one public meeting in Helena, which was at the request of the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition.

The issues we identified through our scoping process and our evaluation criteria are listed in Appendix "A". Forest Service management objectives for this area are listed in Appendix "B". Additional concerns which were brought to our attention, either through the mail or meetings, are as follows:

1. Preparation of an environmental assessment and decision notice for the Electric Indian area at this time might prejudice the Forest Planning process, especially with respect to the roadless resource. Preparation of an environmental assessment at this time is not appropriate (Helena Forest Conservation Coalition).

2. The area provides opportunities for Grizzly Bear recovery. It should be managed accordingly (Helena Forest Conservation Coalition). The alternatives we have generated, using these issues and our objectives as a guide, are as follows:

ALTERNATIVE A:

No Action, in this case, means that new roads and logging units will not be developed in the area. Other activities, which are currently ongoing, will continue.

ALTERNATIVE B1:

This alternative entails road construction and timber harvest within the entire analysis area, including roadless area 1-609. The alternative is oriented toward emphasis of a range of recreational opportunities, especially wildlife oriented recreation, and simultaneously producing a low level of commodity outputs, i.e., timber, firewood, posts poles. Approximately 16 miles of new roads would be constructed; 383 acres of timber would be harvested, including posts and poles; and 3.3 million board feet of mature timber would be made available to local industry.

ALTERNATIVE B2:

This alternative has the same management emphasis as Alternative B1, but it is limited to the area outside of roadless area 1-609. Approximately 7 miles of new road would be constructed; 96 acres of timber would be harvested, including posts and poles; and .9 million board feet of mature timber would be made available to local industry.

ALTERNATIVE C1:

This alternative entails new road construction and timber harvest within the entire analysis area, including roadless area 1-609. This alternative is oriented toward the provision of wood products, reducing unit costs of production, and maximizing the present net value of commodity resource outputs. This requires a rapid realization of income from the area. Under this alternative approximately 35 miles of new road would be constructed; 2530 of timber would be harvested, including posts and poles; and 15.2 million board feet of mature timber would be made available to local industry.

ALTERNATIVE C2:

This alternative is similar in emphasis to C1, but does not include roadless area 1-609. Approximately 19 miles of new roads would be constructed; 1576 acres of timber would be harvested, including posts and poles; and 7.3 million board feet of mature timber would be made available to local industry.

June 7, 1984

2410
Page 3

ALTERNATIVE D1:

> Under this alternative 8 miles of new roads would be constructed and 558 acres of timber would be harvested, including posts and poles; and 4.6 million board feet of mature timber would be made available to local industry; security cover for big game will be maintained through sale design, and travel management (seasonal and yearlong area closures).

ALTERNATIVE D2:

> This alternative is similar in emphasis to D1, but does not include roadless area 1-609. Approximately 6 miles of new road would be constructed; 433 acres of timber would be harvested, including posts and poles; and 2.8 million board feet of mature timber would be made available to local industry.

The estimated effects of implementing these alternatives are summarized in Appendix C. In the near future we will be finalizing our recommendation to the Forest Supervisor. If you have any comments at this time, please feel free to send them to us. If you have any specific questions at this time, please contact either:

Dick Smith
U. S. Forest Service
Jefferson Ranger District
P.O. Box F
Whitehall, MT 59759

OR

Mike Paterni
U. S. Forest Service
P.O. Box 400
Federal Building
Butte, MT 59703

Sincerely,

ROGER M. SIEMENS
District Ranger

Enclosures - 3

APPENDIX A

ELECTRIC INDIAN ANALYSIS AREA

Issues/Concerns
December 27, 1983

A. Timber Management

1. We are not entering roadless areas aggressively enough to provide access to standing crops.

2. Mature lodgepole pine is susceptible to bark beetle attacks and parts of the area support mature lodgepole stands.

3. Areas in the 800 series habitat types are too expensive to manage due to high regeneration costs and/or expensive silvicultural systems.

4. Parts of the area are in the suitable timber base and must be managed to meet targets.

5. Increased availability of fuelwood is desired by many people for commercial and noncommercial uses.

B. Wildlife Habitat Management

1. The unroaded portions of this area currently provide high quality summer range. Human activity will displace animals.

2. Due to the extent of past timber harvesting, the area provides an "island" of secure fall habitat.

3. Removal of natural barriers to livestock movement provide the opportunity for cattle to preempt elk use of important summer range.

4. The area provides the summer component for two winter range complexes (Deer Lodge Valley, Boulder River).

C. Recreation Management

1. This area is a popular backcountry recreation area for hikers (destination--Cottonwood Lake) and backcountry elk hunter (at least one outfitter-guide). People from Helena are major users of the area.

2. Continental Divide Trail will go through this area.

3. This area includes some traditionally used ORV routes.

4. The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum may be affected by timber harvest in the area. This is due to the heavy harvest (large units, close together) in surrounding areas.

5. A contiguous area on the Helena NF is being managed for roadless recreation.

6. The visual quality of the area has been addressed in terms of visual quality objections. The Forest wishes to meet these objectives as much as possible.

D. Cultural Resources

1. The mining camp of Leadville has undetermined historical/cultural significance.

E. Soil and Water

1. Parts of the area are extensively covered by bogs and perched water table. Special road design and/or logging systems may be required, or use of roads may be limited to use while dry only.

2. Some stream channels may not handle heavier runoff loads (peak flows).

F. RARE II Areas

1. Roadless Area #1609, Electric Peak, is within the analysis area. The final disposition/release of the area has not been resolved.

G. Fisheries

The streams originating in and flowing through the area provide spawning and rearing habitat for the Boulder River fishery (brook and rainbow trout), in addition to providing a brook trout fishery.

Approved by: ______________ Date 1/5/84
ROGER M. SIEMENS
District Ranger

APPENDIX B

Objectives- Electric Indian Analysis Area

The following objectives have been proposed for the Electric Indian Analysis Area:

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

1. Develop access to suitable timber lands for future management and harvest of timber, fuelwood, and other wood products.

2. Explore opportunities for post and pole sales.

3. Reduce the loss of merchantable timber in stands rated as very high and high risk. First priority should be given to stands susceptible to Mountain Pine Beetle infestation and second priority to overmature stands. Management of pine stands should receive higher priority than management of spruce-fir stands.

4. Access available timber volume at a reasonable cost.

5. Pursue salvage sale opportunities.

WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT

1. Maintain or develop a diversity of plant and animal communities that permits the existence of all native species.

2. Maintain 75 percent effective cover in timber subcompartments in which timber is harvested or vehicular access exists (Given that the habitat is capable of providing this level of security; in cases where the habitat is naturally insecure, attempts will be made to minimize adverse impacts to elk security).

3. Maintain the integrity of big game summer range.

WATERSHED AND SOIL MANAGEMENT

1. Maintain, as a minimum, the quality of water produced in the analysis area.

2. Reduce the amount of sediment delivered to Rock Creek from the existing jeep trail in Rock Creek.

3. Maintain the integrity of perched water tables.

FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT

1. Dispose of logging slash. Reduce slash to amounts prescribed by the silviculturist.

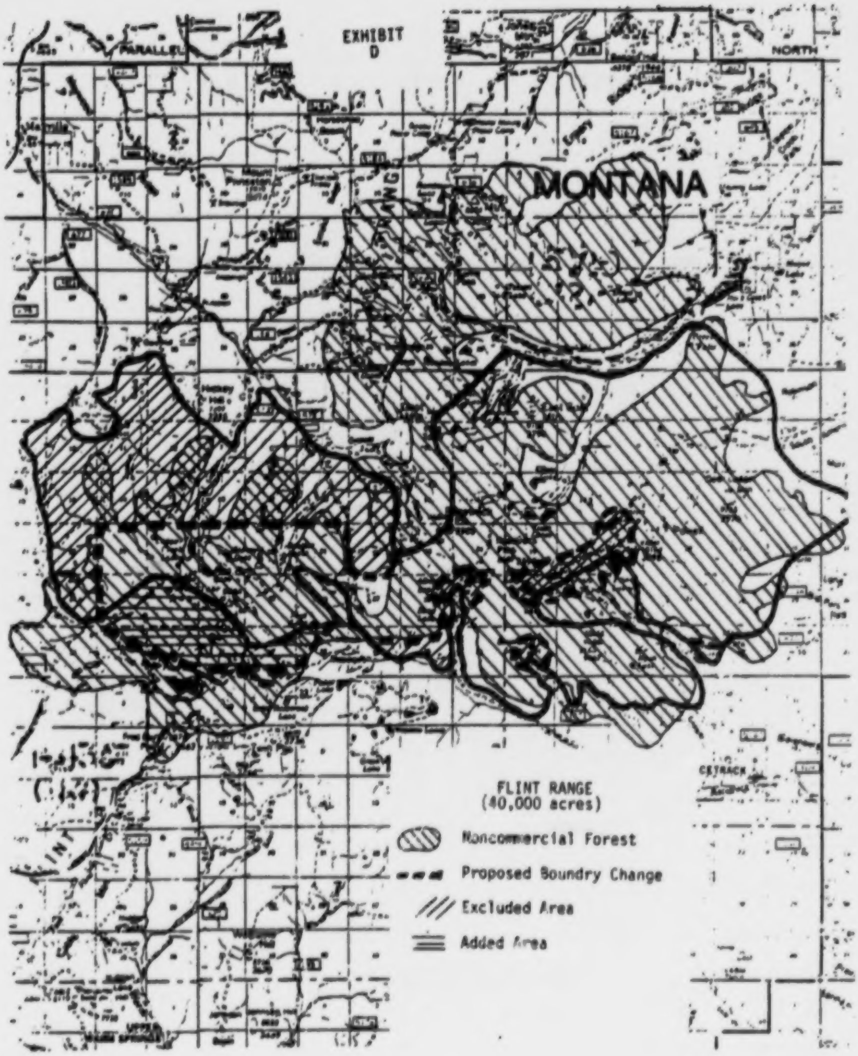


EXHIBIT
D
PARALLEL
NORTH
MONTANA
FLINT RANGE
(40,000 acres)
Noncommercial Forest
Proposed Boundry Change
Excluded Area
Added Area

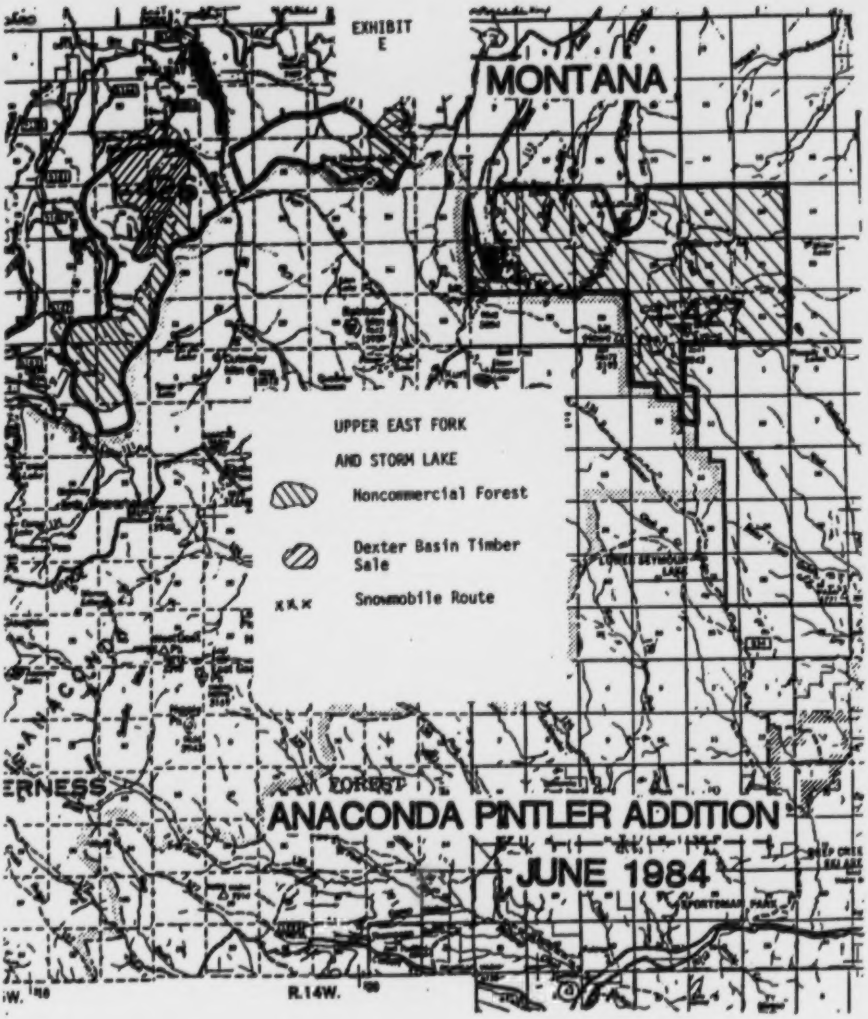


EXHIBIT
E
MONTANA
UPPER EAST FORK
AND STORM LAKE
▨ Noncommercial Forest
▨ Dexter Basin Timber Sale
xxx Snowmobile Route
ERNESS
FOREST
ANACONDA PINTLER ADDITION
JUNE 1984
R.14W.

"Proposed Timber Sales on Deerlodge National Forest 1990-1993"

EXHIBIT
F

Forest Supervisor **Page -4-**

FY-90

D-1	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor 1.8, Horse .2
D-2	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor
D-3	Stoney	4.0	Tractor
	Harvey-Eight Mile	6.0	Tractor
	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor
D-4	Upper Trask	1.0	Tractor
	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor
		19.0	

FY-91

D-1	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor
D-2	South Fork Basin	2.0	Jammer .5, Tractor 1.5
	Halfway Park	2.0	Tractor
	Ranger Authority	2.5	Tractor
D-3	Dexter Basin	3.0	Logging System Unknown
	Moose Mountain	3.5	Tractor
	Ranger Authority	2.5	Tractor
D-4	Ranger Authority	1.5	Tractor
		19.0	

FY-92

D-1	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor 1.8, Horse .2
D-2	Hadley Park	2.0	Jammer .5, Tractor 1.5
	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor
D-3	Silver Goose	5.5	Logging System Unknown
	Ranger Authority	2.5	Tractor
D-4	Canyon - Norton	4.0	Jammer .8, Tractor 3.2
	Ranger Authority	1.0	Tractor
		19.0	

FY-93

D-1	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor
D-2	East Jack Creek	3.0	Jammer .8, Tractor 2.2
	Ranger Authority	2.3	Tractor
D-3	Boulder	5.7	Logging System Unknown
	Ranger Authority	3.0	Tractor
D-4	Scout Camp	1.0	Tractor .8, Horse .2
	Ranger Authority	2.0	Tractor
		19.0	

John L. Hautzinger
JOHN L. HAUTZINGER
Timber Task Force Chairman

cc:
John Hautzinger
John Joy
Joel Marshik
Richard Hollamon
Earl Williams
Dick Smith
Mike Harris
J.T. Osborn
Steve Slaughter
Merrill Davis
Gary Learn
Rick Hanningsen
Fran Lucon
Gilbert Vigil
Ken Rollins
Vic Standa
Roger Siemens
Ole Olsen
Claude Orvis
Ron Roginske

EXHIBIT
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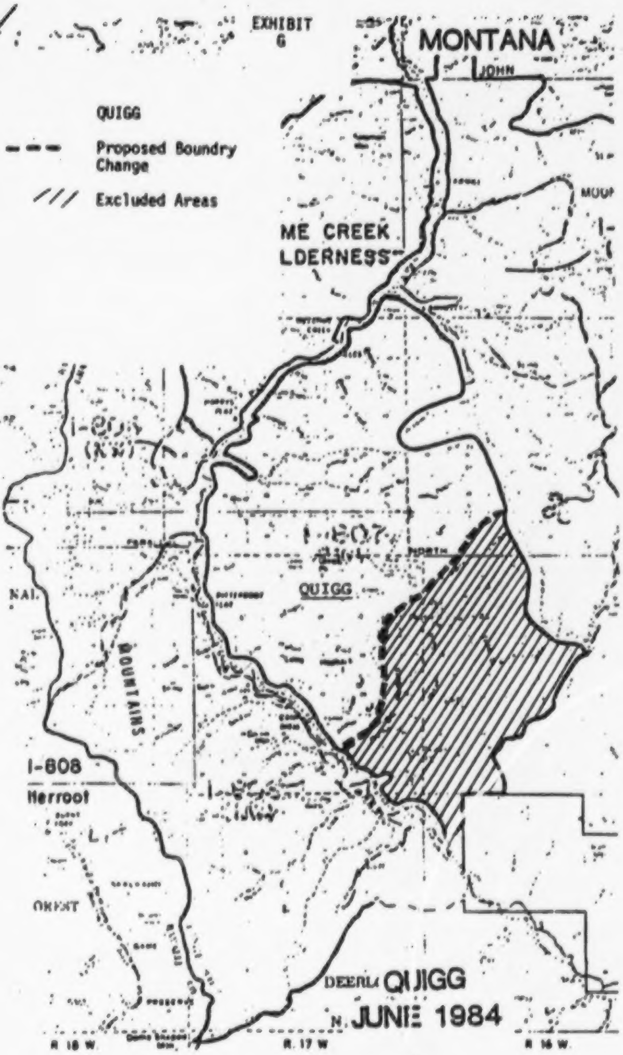

QUIGG
Proposed Boundry Change
Excluded Areas
MONTANA
JOHN
ME CREEK
LDERNESS
1-807
QUIGG
MOUNTAINS
NAI.
1-808
Herroot
OREST
DEERL
QUIGG
JUNE 1984
R. 18 W.
R. 17 W
R. 16 W.
50'
40'

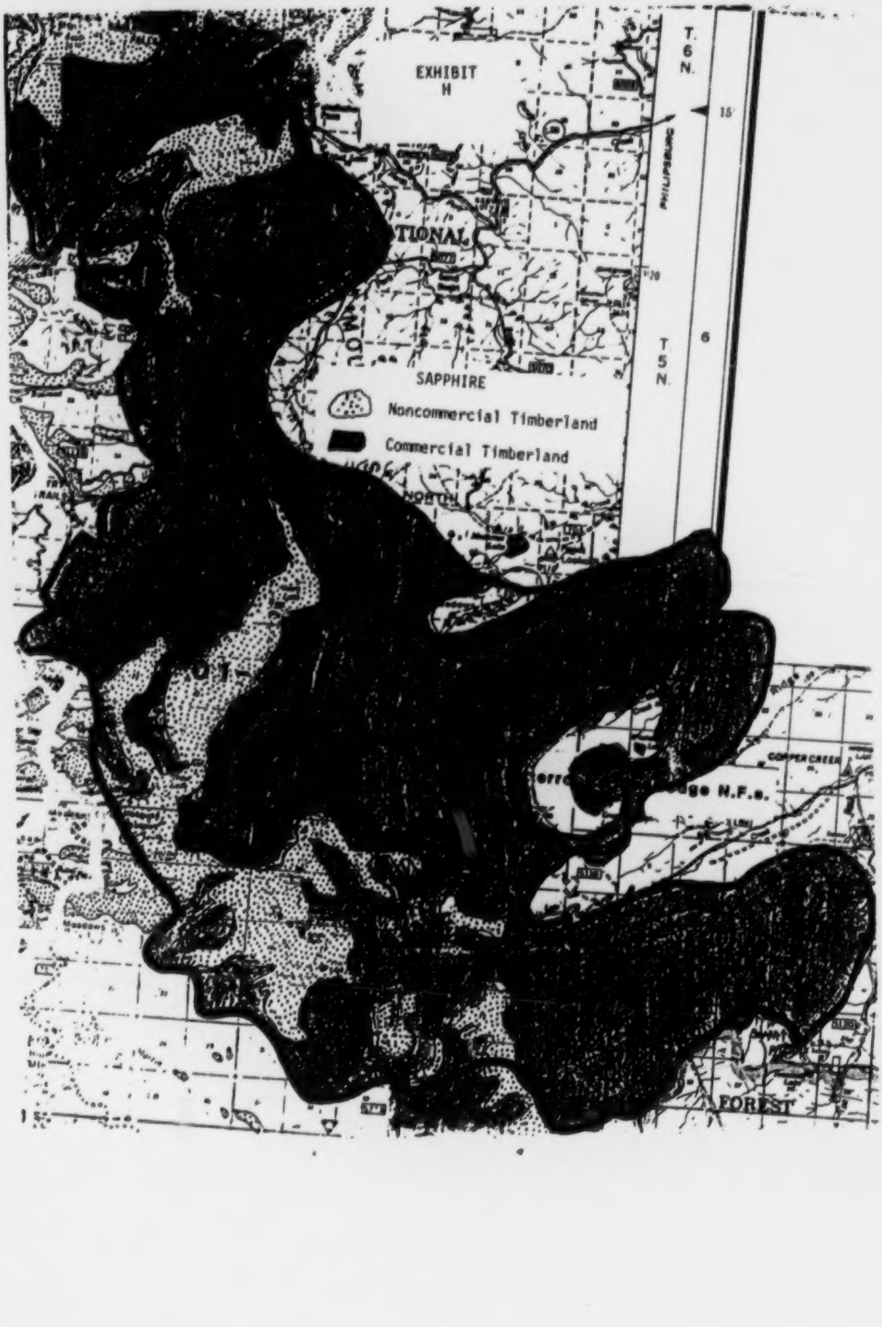


EXHIBIT
H
SAPPHIRE
Noncommercial Timberland
Commercial Timberland
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
15'
20
6
PHILIPSBURG
NATIONAL
NORTH
COPPER CREEK
Deerlodge N.F.
FOREST

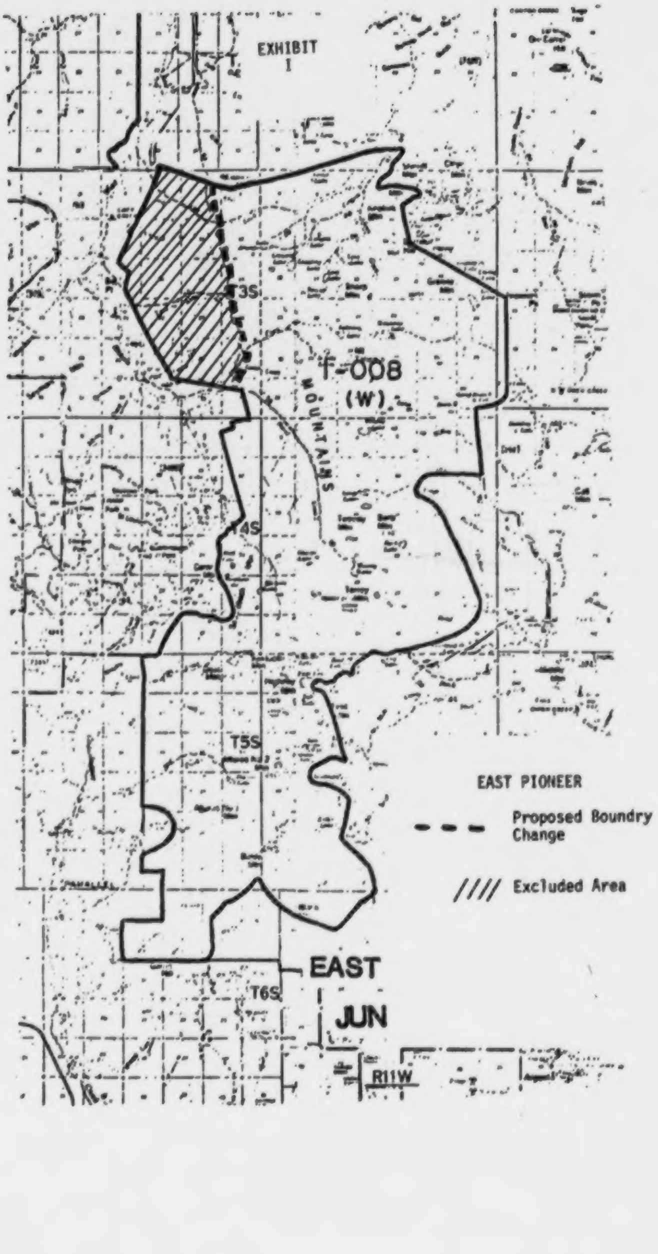
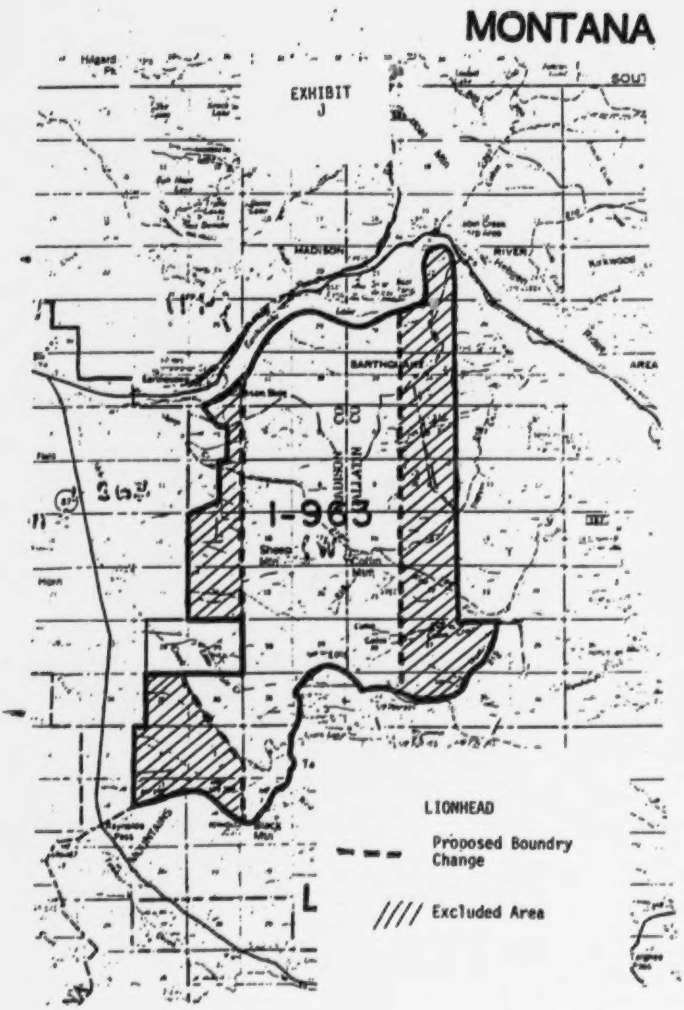
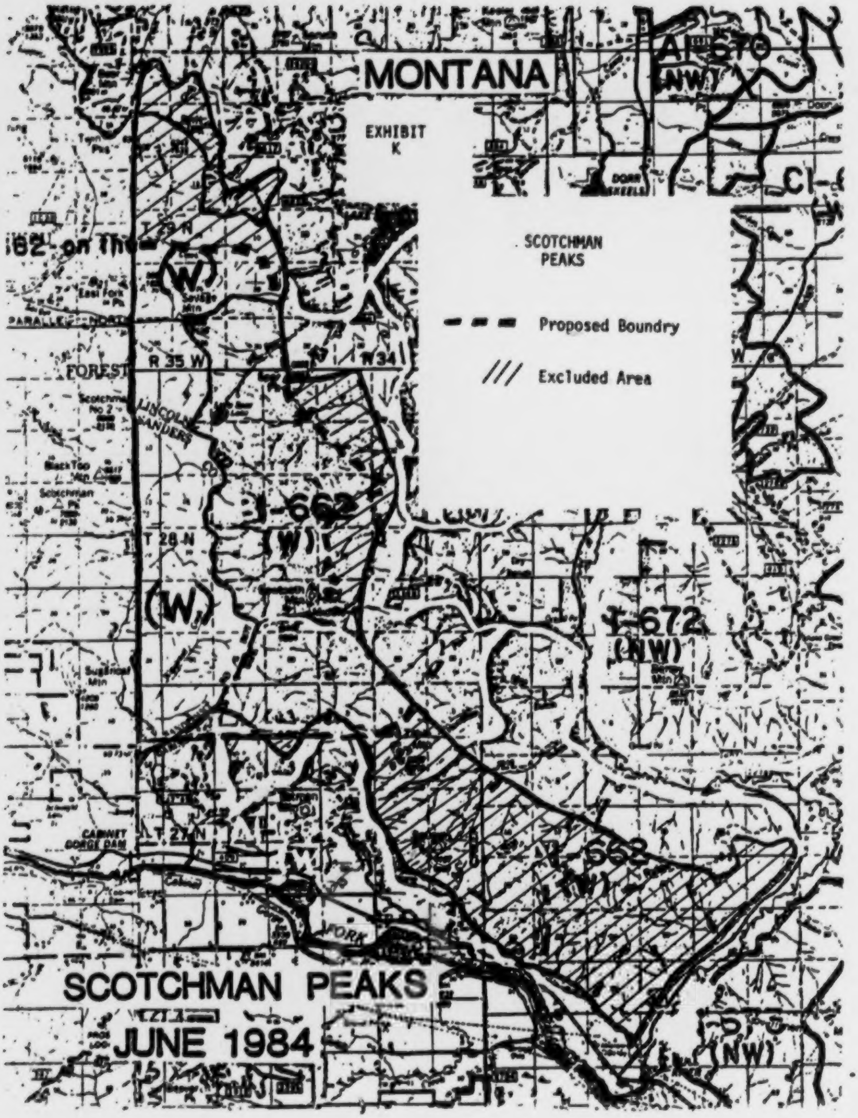


EXHIBIT
I
T3S
T-008
(W)
MOUNTAINS
T4S
T5S
T6S
EAST
JUN
R11W
EAST PIONEER
Proposed Boundry Change
//// Excluded Area


MONTANA
EXHIBIT
J
MADISON
RIVER
EARTHQUAKE
I-963
Sheep Mtn
Coffin Mtn
Black Mtn
LIONHEAD
Proposed Boundry Change
//// Excluded Area


MONTANA
A-670
(NW)
EXHIBIT
K
SCOTCHMAN
PEAKS
▬ ▬ ▬ Proposed Boundry
/// Excluded Area
(W)
T 29 N
R 35 W
R 34
FOREST
LINCOLN
SANDERS
I-662
(W)
T 28 N
(W)
I-672
(NW)
CABINET GORGE DAM
T 27 N
I-662
(W)
(NW)
SCOTCHMAN PEAKS
JUNE 1984

Senator **Melcher**. Thank you all very much. Senator Baucus, please proceed.

Senator **Baucus**. I just have a few quick questions. I am curious, in your collective judgment or individual judgment, which areas of the State from the timber industry's point of view are more adversely affected by this bill?

Mr. **Blasing**. I can speak to several of them.

Senator **Baucus**. If you could rank them, just prioritize them. Where is the adverse effect from the timber industry's point of view greatest in this bill?

Mr. **Blasing**. I cannot rank them one against the other, because each one has an important impact on a specific company.

Senator **Baucus**. I understand.

Mr. **Blasing**. If you look at the areas immediately adjacent to Deerlodge, such as Electric Peak, portions of the Plint Range, portions of Crieg Peak, that collectively creates an impact on Deerlodge. East Pioneer has a considerable acreage of commercial land and that is important to both Deerlodge and Dillon. The Whodo area has a large acreage of commercial forest land and when you couple that with the 124,000-acre proposal on the Idaho side of the line, that has a very negative impact on the Superior community.

Those are probably some of the hardest. The special management areas in the Judith and Big Snowies have particular problems for the mills in Hobson, Lewistown, and Judith Gap. It is not for me to say which of those areas are the hardest.

Senator **Baucus**. Would the rest of you generally agree with Larry? Is there a different slant any of you want to make on that? Let me ask another question. How worried are you about there not being a bill? What if there is no bill, how much uncertainty will that cause, as you see it?

Mr. **Blasing**. In my opinion, it will cause considerable uncertainty and I think this is clearly demonstrated by the recent lawsuit that has been filed by Montana, Idaho, and National Wildlife Federation against the Capital Investment Program, using the RARE II issue as part of that lawsuit.

One of the things that I neglected to do in my testimony, you have with you some place a letter from Pyramid Mountain Lumber Co., that clearly demonstrates the need for sufficiency language and I was also asked to introduce testimony from Jim Bentley of Champion Timberlands, to have that included in the record. You have copies of that.

To further go back and answer the question, that lawsuit has an immediate effect on the timber supply in the current budget allocation for capital investment, and I cannot remember the exact numbers. I can provide them for you later. But in the current fiscal year, if those funds were rescinded, it sticks in my mind that it amounts to something like 50 million board feet of timber, which is roughly enough timber to run a couple of usual Montana sawmills.

Next year there was something like 150 million board feet that would be withdrawn as of result of that proposal. We have several appeals and we are facing litigation in several areas that are continuing to restrict the timber supply that we are currently planning on over the next few years.

Senator **Baucus**. I will make sure that letter is in the record. Let me ask a tough question here. How far, do you think as best you can determine, is the industry willing to go in including additional acreage in wilderness in order to get a bill, that is to get that certainty, if a bill passed this year, to get that sufficiency language to release the remaining areas?

Mr. **Blasing**. As I said, we are willing to work with you as best we can. The only thing I can say is we will look at any proposal that you would care to put before us and we will give you our best assessment of what the impacts are to us from that particular proposal. We are willing to look at whatever you have to offer.

Senator **Baucus**. I do not want to get into numbers or be held down too much by numbers, but can you say whether maybe industry would be willing to look at, say, an additional 250,000 acres in wilderness? We have roughly around a million acres total. Or is that out of the question?

Mr. **Blasing**. Again, we would have to look at where those 250,000 acres were.

Senator **Baucus**. Depending on where they are, that is a possibility.

Mr. **Blasing**. It is depending on where they are. It would be something that we would just have to look at.

Mr. **Olson**. Senator Baucus, I have a lot of members that would knock me up along side of the head for implying that the loggers in Montana will support one additional extra acre of wilderness in that State. I have some real strong reservations of whether or not we could support anything beyond this bill. I really believe that we have made a tremendous compromise on what has been recommended.

I would not want to leave this subcommittee with the impression that our organization is probably going to compromise any further.

I am saying that I would not want to leave this subcommittee with the impression that our organization will probably compromise any further than we have here today.

Senator **Baucus**. I appreciate that.

Mr. **Kirkmire**. Senator Baucus, we feel that there are several parts of the bill that are not as controversial and could possibly be acted upon this year. I might respectfully offer that you consider taking the parts of the bill that are doable and doing them this year and saving some of the things, like the special management units for another piece of legislation.

Senator **Baucus**. Well, we are looking at that option too.

Mr. **Kirkmire**. I do not think that you should set the wilderness target of acres. I think you should strongly consider the merits. Most of the controversy that I detected is over the proposals for the special management areas.

Senator **Baucus**. Thank you.

Senator **Melcher**. Does your point include the Buffalo Horn, High Light area, which is involved in the swap?

Mr. **Kirkmire**. Yes, we would very much like to have that exchange concluded this year.

Senator **Melcher**. Then that special area is not part of what you just said.

Mr. KIRKMIRE. The exchange, after the exchange, if it is approved and completed, we will have about 1,300 acres still that would be in the special management unit that you have proposed and we have another proposal to transfer ownership of those areas to the Forest Service, which you have in your hand, and I think that the Forest Service and Congress could then determine how they wanted that area to be managed.

Senator MELCHER. Well, is that 1,300 acres at about the same stage as the balance of the Burlington-Forest Service swap?

Mr. KIRKMIRE. Do you mean in terms of the work that we have done with the Forest Service?

Senator MELCHER. In terms of agreement.

Mr. KIRKMIRE. No, it is—we have not been working on it for the same length of time that we have been working on the Porcupine exchange, but we have preliminary indications that the Forest Service is generally in agreement with what we have proposed.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you all very much.

Our second panel consists of Jack Cole, Canyon Creek Ranch; Jim Curtis, chairman of the Bob Marshall Alliance; Daryle Murphy, conservation chairman, Sierra Club; Dan Heinz, Big Hole River Watershed Coalition; and Chris Deveny, Helena Forest Conservation Coalition.

I suppose it would be just as well to proceed in the order you were called. Jack Cole first.

STATEMENT OF JACK R. COLE, OWNER, CANYON CREEK GUEST RANCH, MELROSE, MT

Mr. COLE. Thank you. I am here to talk about jobs for southwest Montana, not conjecture, not hope, no Treasury subsidy and no resource damage. I am the owner of the Canyon Creek Ranch out of Melrose. We are located at the gateway to the east Pioneer Wilderness. For almost a half century, gentlemen, the ranch has provided regular employment and brought in nearly $4 million to Montana by providing meals and lodging and other services,

By careful conservation policies and continued roadless protection, there is almost as much fish, game, natural beauty, and visitor attraction as there was 50 years ago. We are illustrative of the type of visitor attraction that can continue to bring jobs and revenues into southwest Montana for another 50 to a 100 years as long as the area remains roadless.

We receive no subsidies or tax breaks. As a matter of fact, we put 2 to 3 percent of our revenues to the Forest Service in fees.

Allow roads and vehicle access into the East Pioneers and the small Alpine lakes there will be fished out in a few weeks, and the game, which also provides a valuable food source for local residents, will now be gone as it becomes an easy target for the hordes of motorized vehicles waiting for fresh territory to conquer.

In recent years, interestingly enough, we estimate that the average fisherman that we serve that we bring into the southwest Montana area spends $400 for every pound of fish that he kills and the average elk hunter spends $5,000 to $10,000 for every elk he takes from our area.

That is a pretty good return for Montana when you consider what they are taking is renewable for next year and next year and next year, and not 100 to 150 years from now.

We recommend the East Pioneers for statutory wilderness protection. The area has perhaps received fewer meaningful objections for statutory wilderness from proponents of nonwilderness than most other proposed wilderness areas in the West.

There are 33 major creeks with headwaters in these mountains and this contribution to the Big Hole River Valley is becoming more appreciated every day by ranchers and other downstream water users.

The boundary adjustment worked out with the Amoco Minerals Co., continues to protect the resource of the Canyon Creek and Gold Creek area elk, mountain goats, and Ptarmigan sanctuaries and the Alpine lakes, yet, this adjustment allows Amoco to continue its good work in the area.

When the final boundaries are drawn, gentlemen, we would like to recommend what we believe are three noncontroversial adjustments. First, Buckhorn Creek should be included. It is on your map. We believe that was an ommission and was a clerical error.

Granite Lake and Cherry Lake certainly qualify for wilderness protection. I don't know why they have been left out.

Goat Ridge, which is on your map, is a rare and relatively unknown asset of Montana. There exists a native mountain goat herd that has been the source of transplants, approximately 100 head over the years, for several new mountain goat herds in other areas of Montana.

This is on the northeast end of your map, extending from Canyon Creek up to Sage Flat.

Goat Ridge provides critical winter pasture and spring calving habitat. The ridge is an integral part of the East Pioneers and extends from the ranch east to Sage Flat. There is little timber value there and no known minerals on the ridge.

It was part of the original U.S. Forest Service RARE II recommendations as of January of 1979. We estimate there, talking about money, for each goat harvested each year about $3,000 is spent in Montana by out-of-State visitors. The ridge was also recommended by the Montana Wildlands Coalition on May 30, 1984.

I want to thank you very much, gentlemen, for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration of these recommendations.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Cole follows:]

TESTIMONY OF

JACK R. COLE, OWNER
CANYON CREEK GUEST RANCH
MELROSE, MONTANA

HEARINGS ON THE 1984 MONTANA WILDERNESS BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am Jack Cole, owner of the Canyon Creek Guest Ranch out of Melrose, Montana. We are located at the gateway to the East Pioneer Wilderness Area. For almost one half a century, the Ranch has provided regular employment and brought in nearly $4,000,000 to Montana by providing meals and lodging, guides for fishermen, hunters, and sightseers, horses, fishing tackle, fishing schools, and river floating activities to visitors.

By careful conservation policies, and continued roadless protection there is almost as much fish, game and natural beauty and visitor attraction as there was 50 years ago. (Visitors must hike or ride a horse into the remote fish and game areas and to the scenic Alpine lakes. There is no vehicle access.)

We are illustrative of the type of visitor attraction that can continue to bring jobs and revenues into northwest Montana for another 50-100 years as long as the area remains "roadless".

We receive no subsidies or tax breaks and we pay 2-3% of our revenues to the U. S. Forest Service in fees.

Allow roads and vehicle access into the East Pioneers and the small Alpine lakes will be "fished out" in a few weeks and the game (which also provides a valuable food source for local residents) will now be gone as it becomes an easy target for the hordes of motorized vehicles waiting for "fresh territory" to conquer.

In recent years we estimate that the average fisherman we serve spends $400.00 for every pound of fish he kills and the average elk hunter spends $5-10,000 for every elk he takes from the area.

That's a pretty good "return" for Montana when you consider that what they have taken is "renewable" next year -- not 100-150 years from now.

We recommend the East Pioneers for statutory wilderness protection.

The East Pioneers Wilderness has perhaps received fewer meaningful objections for statutory wilderness from proponents of "non-wilderness" than most other proposed wilderness areas in the entire West.

There are 33 major creeks with headwaters in these mountains. This contribution to the Big Hole River Valley is becoming more appreciated every day by ranchers and other downstream water users.

The boundary adjustment worked out with the Amoco Minerals Company continues to protect the Canyon Creek and Gold Creek area elk, mountain goats, and rare Ptarmigan sanctuaries, and the Alpine lakes, yet allows Amoco to continue its work in the area.

When the final boundaries are drawn we would like to recommend what we believe are 3 non-controversial adjustments:

1. Buckhorn Creek should be included. We believe this ommission may have been a clerical error.

2. Granite Lake and Cherry Lake certainly qualify for wilderness protection.

3. "Goat Ridge" supports a rare and relatively unknown asset of Montana -- a native Mountain Goat herd that has been the source of "transplants" (approximately 100 head) for several Mountain Goat herds in other areas of Montana.

   1. "Goat Ridge" provides critical winter pasture and spring calving habitat for this original herd.

   2. The ridge is an integral part of the East Pioneers. It extends from the Ranch east to Sage Flat.

   3. There is little timber of value and no known minerals on the ridge.

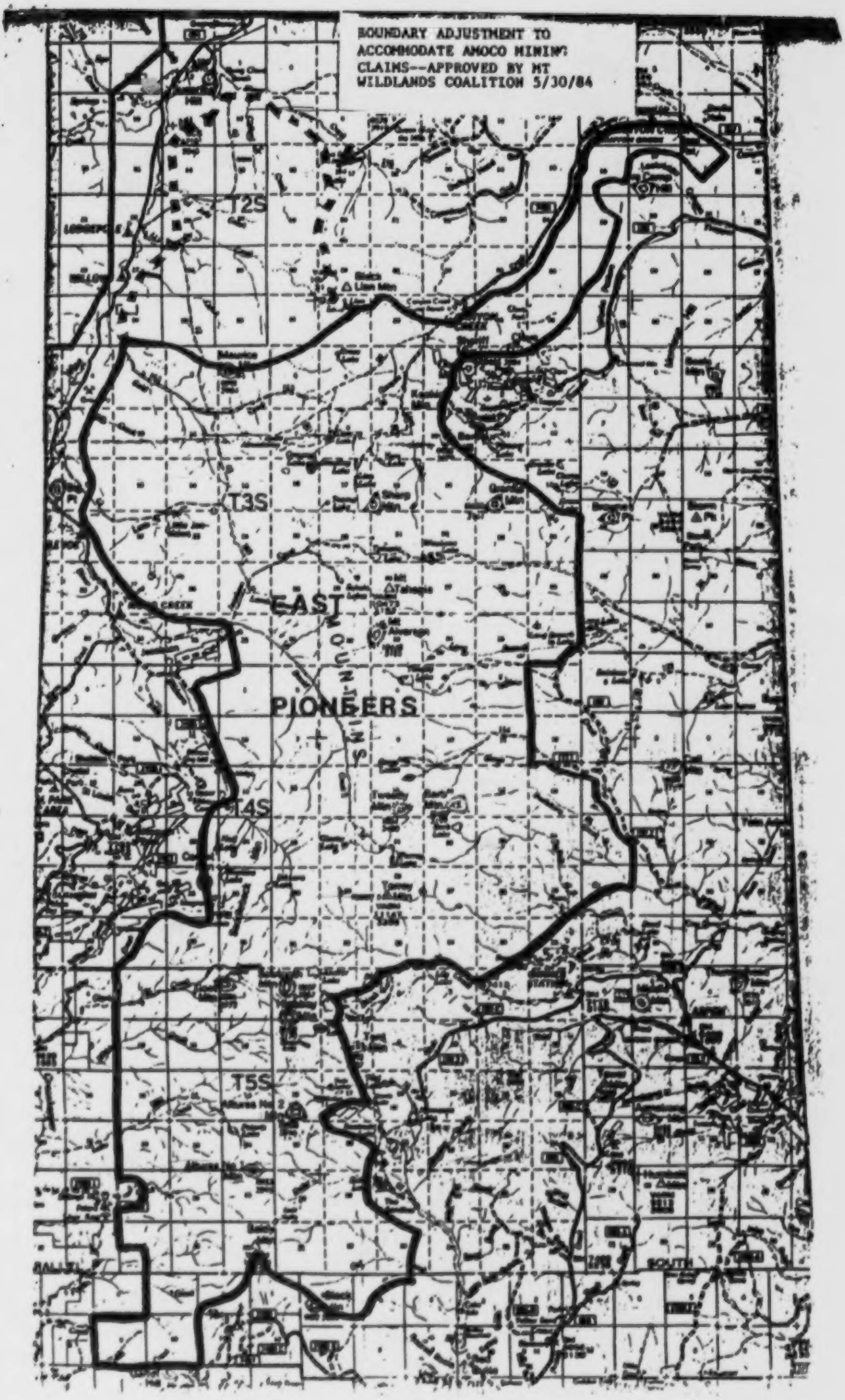
   4. It was part of the original U.S.F.S. Rare II recommendations as of January 1979.

   5. The ridge is approximately one mile wide and 5 miles long and from the air is an obvious extension of the East Pioneer mountains.

   6. We estimate that for each goat harvested each year about $3,000 is spent in Montana by out of state visitors.

   7. The ridge was one recommended by the Montana Wildlands Coalition on May 30, 1984.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration of our recommendations.



BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT TO ACCOMMODATE AMOCO MINING CLAIMS--APPROVED BY MT WILDLANDS COALITION 5/30/84

T2S
T3S
EAST
PIONEERS
MOUNTAINS
T4S
T5S
SOUTH

STATEMENT OF JAMES F. CURTIS, PRESIDENT, BOB MARSHALL ALLIANCE, MISSOULA, MT

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee, I am James Curtis of Missoula, MT. I am president of the Bob Marshall Alliance, a broadly based coalition of 31 organizations concerned with protecting one of the most important wildlife ecosystems still remaining in the lower 48 States; namely, the wilderness complex consisting of the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great Bear Wilderness Areas and the adjacent wildlands.

I am also a member of the steering committee of the East Montana Wildlands Coalition and am one of the persons designated by the coalition as spokesperson for that group.

I would prefer at this time to let my printed statement and the supporting documents speak for themselves and use the time allotted to me to extend that statement by means of a few personal remarks.

We will doubtless hear during this hearing a good deal concerning the cost in benefits for wilderness designation. I would like to suggest that much of this economic argument is likely to be partial and incomplete. For complete cost benefit analysis, one must consider the cost of elk, deer, and large herds that depend on the Rocky Mountain front, for example, for a critical habitat, and I am speaking of the Rocky Mountain front primarily because we are very much concerned that the areas now included in S. 2850 do not adequately provide for protection of these values.

We must also consider the values of the mountain ranges on the front as a dependable source of high quality water, a commodity that is absolutely vital to the productivity of the ranches bordering that area. What would be the cost of that water supply if that water supply is decreased in quantity, rendered less dependable, or degraded in quality as a result of roading, drilling, or disturbances of the soil and vegetation? Who will pay that cost?

Another cost that must be taken into account is the cost of the bust phase of the inevitable boom and bust economy associated with the extraction of nonrenewable resources in the Rocky Mountain front, particularly oil and gas. We have had ample experience in Montana with a legacy of unpaid costs and human hardship that remains after the corporate profit takers have moved into new areas for exploitation. All one needs to do is talk with people in Butte or Anaconda.

I submit that when all benefits and costs are taken into account, the balance sheet will show a definite and clear advantage for wilderness for the additions to the Rocky Mountain front proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance. But beyond that, I submit that the true value of wilderness cannot be measured in commodity terms. To paraphrase a great artist and conservationist, the late Ansel Adams, those who would make decisions concerning wilderness based on purely dollar economics are persons who know the price of everything and the value of nothing.

What is the value to society of a Michelangelo painting or a Verdi opera? What is the value to the generations yet unborn of the opportunity to experience some remnant of our great western country when that country was known to Lewis and Clark? What would be the cost to society if those unborn generations are deprived of the opportunity to know the solitude and the silence of the true wilderness experience?

The decisions we are making in S. 2850 are not for our time alone. They will be binding on those who come after us down to the fifth and sixth generations and beyond. Let us hope that those future generations will have just cause to thank us for our wisdom, not curse us for our shortsightedness.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Curtis follows:]

Statement on behalf of the Bob Marshall Alliance

Submitted to

Public Lands and Reserved Waters Subcommittee

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Concerning

S. 2850, The Montana Wilderness Act of 1984

August 9, 1984

Prepared and presented by

James F. Curtis, President
Bob Marshall Alliance
9650 Grant Creek Road
Missoula, MT 59802

Mr. Chairman, members of the sub-committee, I am James Curtis of Missoula, Montana. I am President of the Bob Marshall Alliance, a broadly based coalition of 31 organizations concerned with protecting one of the most important wildlife ecosystems still remaining in the lower 48 states, namely, the wilderness complex consisting of the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat and Great Bear Wildernesses and the adjacent wildlands that constitute critically essential habitat for many wildlife species that inhabit the wilderness areas including the threatened grizzly bear, the largest herd of big horned Rocky Mountain Sheep in the United States, large numbers of elk and deer, mountain goats and numerous lesser mammals. I am submitting with this statement a list of the organizations that are members of the Bob Marshall Alliance. In addition the Alliance has more than 4,000 individual contributing members. One of the very significant organization members of the Alliance is the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association. It is unfortunate that this hearing is being held at a time that makes it impossible for any member of that group to appear before you, because they have a very vital interest in the wilderness issue, and their views on this matter deserve serious consideration. I am also a member of the steering committee of the Montana Wildlands Coalition and one of the persons designated to act as spokesperson's for that Coalition.

In the testimony that I am presenting today, I wish to speak briefly as a member of the Wildlands Coalition steering committee and then at greater length as President of the Bob Marshall Alliance.

The first point I would like to make concerns the extensive series of meetings that were held during March, April and May of this year between representatives of the Montana Wildlands Coalition and representatives of the timber, mining, and petroleum industries, the Montana Stockgrowers Association and the Montana Snowmobile Association. In these meetings which were held at the urging of the Montana Congressional delegation. The group was given a two-fold charge. They were to consider each of the Montana areas that had been reviewed by the U. S. Forest Service during RARE II and to attempt to reach agreement concerning placement of these areas in one of three categories, as follows: (1) recommended for wilderness; (2) recommended for release for non-wilderness uses; (3) reserved for further study and review. Secondly, this group was charged with developing information concerning resource conflicts that may exist with respect to those areas on which the group could not reach agreement.

I believe it is fair to say that this group did its very best to carry out their charge. Although we were able to reach agreement on only a few areas, we did explore extensively the nature and extent of the resource conflicts that made agreement impossible on the others. The Wildlands Coalition believes that this information merits careful consideration in developing the wilderness bill now before us, and we believe that it is unfortunate that the time frame within which the bill was developed has made it impossible to give adequate consideration to the information that this group had been asked to develop. It is exceedingly disappointing, not to say frustrating, to find that the result of many hours of hard work is given little or no consideration. It is especially frustrating when,as was the case for the Wildlands Coalition representatives, one is an unpaid volunteer taking time away from other important activities and spending his own money to attend meetings.

I would like to make one further point with respect to these meetings. As previously indicated, we were charged with considering those areas that had been reviewed by the Forest Service during RARE II. We were not charged with studying the S. 393 Montana Wilderness Study Areas, or the BLM Wilderness Study Areas and we spent no time discussing these areas. It was our understanding that these areas would not be considered in the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984. We had, of course, kept all members of the Wildlands Coalition advised concerning these meetings and the discussions that were going on. It was a matter of great surprise, therefore, when S. 2850 was introduced on June 29, 1984, to learn that the S. 393 Wilderness Study Areas had been included in the bill, and that decisions with respect to certain BLM areas were also included. We believe that inclusion of these areas in this bill is a serious mistake. The Congressionally mandated studies of these areas have not been completed. Furthermore, the members of the Wildlands Coalition have not had time or opportunity to review these areas adequately. They were never considered in developing the citizen's wilderness proposal known as Alternative W. We were operating under the belief that the purpose of the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984 was to resolve the RARE II issue, i.e., to resolve the problems presented by the Ninth Circuit Court decision in California vs Block. We strongly urge therefore that this bill be amended to limit it to that purpose. Because we have not been afforded the opportunity to develop adequately considered positions with respect to any areas not included in the RARE II inventory, we must oppose a bill which is not limited to consideration of those areas.

I wish now to address the proposals made by the Bob Marshall Alliance for additions to the currently designated Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness areas. One of the very good features of S. 2850 is the proposed additions along the western and southwestern boundaries of the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat, i.e., the areas that the Bob Marshall Alliance has designated with the names Swan Front and Monture Creek additions. We believe the Swan Front addition should have extended up to Six-Mile Mountain, somewhat farther north than is provided by S. 2850. However, boundaries specified in the bill for these additions are otherwise acceptable, and we support them whole-heartedly.

However, on the east side of the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat, i.e., the area generally known as the Rocky Mountain Front, the situation is completely the opposite. The land allocation decisions proposed for this area in S. 2850 are completely unsatisfactory. In framing this bill the Montana delegation apparently took no account of the primary purpose of the Bob Marshall Alliance proposals, viz, to preserve as nearly as possible a complete ecosystem for the critically important wildlife of this region. In its present form S. 2850 would render impossible the accomplishment of this fundamental objective. It should be emphasized that this is not only an objective of the Bob Marshall Alliance. It is one to which the people of Montana have had a long standing commitment. In his letter of June 10, 1984 transmitting his wilderness recommendations to the Montana Congressional delegation Governor Ted Schwinden spoke eloquently of the importance of this objective and of the commitment of Montanans to it. I am submitting copies of Governor Schwinden's letter with this statement, and I respectfully request that it be made part of the official record of this hearing. On this same point I request that the statement of internationally renowned wildlife biologist, Dr. John Craighead presented at the July 9, 1983 Great Falls hearing be made a part of the record of this hearing. These two documents together with my testimony at the Great Falls hearing constitute a comprehensive statement of the case for extending the protection of wilderness designation to as much as possible of the Rocky Mountain Front areas bordering the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat Wilderness areas. I believe these documents deserve the most careful consideration by your committee. However, I do not wish to repeat these arguments here. I would like instead to address the arguments that have been advanced by those opposed to wilderness desigantion for the Rocky Mountain Front areas.

First, let me address the argument that a solution of this country's energy problems requires that Front areas be available for oil and gas development. Last October the United States Geological Survey issued a report on the petroleum potential of Western United States wilderness and potential wilderness areas. Using the data of this report I have made an analysis of the petroleum potential for the specific areas that the Bob Marshall Alliance is proposing as wilderness additions on the Rocky Mountain Front. I have appended a copy of this analysis to my statement and I request that it be included in the hearing record. This analysis shows that the potential for oil production in this area is negligible. Utilizing the most optimistic projection from the U.S.G.S. report the analysis shows that the greatest oil production that can be hoped for from this area would be equal to less than one day's U. S. consumption. Although the potential for natural gas is somewhat greater, the most optimistic projection for gas indicates that the total production from this area might possibly meet U. S. consumption needs for three and a half weeks, no more. Clearly, unless the United States Geological Survey is completely wrong, we are not going to solve U. S. energy problems by sacrificing the unique and irreplaceable wildlands resource of the Rocky Mountain Front. Without doubt the oil and gas industry would like to have unrestricted access to the area. So would those who stand to make fortunes by speculations in oil and gas leases. But does the oil and gas potential of the area justify its sacrifice as wilderness? Either the U.S.G.S. is completely wrong, or the answer is no, emphatically no.

A second argument that has been advanced against the proposed Rocky Mountain Front additions is that further wilderness designation would deprive non-wilderness hunters and fishermen, families on outings and elderly couples in campers of recreational opportunities that they have here-to-fore enjoyed. On this point I wish to introduce into the record an article published in the Great Falls Tribune for August 6, 1984. This article cites Forest Service data showing that campgrounds in the non-wilderness fringe areas of the Front are actually under utilized. Occupancy rates for these campgrounds vary from 5 per cent to 30 per cent. Clearly there is no overwhelming demand for developing the roadless wildlands of the front to provide more recreational opportunity for non-wilderness recreationists. On the other hand the Forest Service data cited in the same article shows that the use within the designated wilderness is straining the capacity of the wilderness to support such use, and there is, in fact, need for more wilderness to accomodate the public demand for such recreation. What needs to be understood is that the areas proposed by the Alliance for wilderness are, in fact, defacto wilderness at the present time. Their long standing and traditional use has been as wilderness. What we are proposing is not a change in the use pattern of these areas that would deprive anyone of recreation opportunities that he has previously enjoyed. Rather we propose that the long standing use pattern should be continued and that its continuation should be guaranteed by wilderness designation.

Thirdly, I would like to address the argument that wilderness designation will cause disadvantage and hardship to persons who have grazing allotments in the areas under consideration. The sub-committee is well aware, I am sure, that, under the provisions of the 1964 Wilderness Act, grazing is a permitted use in wilderness areas. Moreover, precedent in the form of binding committee language attached to other wilderness bills assures grazing permittees that the condition of their allottments will not be changed simply because an area becomes part of the nation's wilderness preserve. Similar language can certainly be associated with S. 2850. Despite all this the Montana Stockgrowers Association has taken an unyielding position in opposition to any new wilderness areas in Montana. We believe that this position is unjustified, based on misinformation and emotion, not reason, and that it ought not to be allowed to influence decisions concerning wilderness designation.

Finally I would like to discuss the opposition of the Snowmobile Association to the proposed Rocky Mountain Front additions. The boundaries for the areas proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance were developed after very careful study and consideration of all known uses in these areas. We sought to accomodate local uses such as post and pole logging, fire-wood cutting and snowmobile recreation while still protecting the wilderness resource. To the best of our knowledge we excluded from our wilderness proposal any area known to be regularly used for snowmobile recreation. Specifically the areas of known snowmobile use in the Choteau Mountain - Teton River High Peaks areas were carefully excluded from the area proposed for wilderness. On the other hand we do not believe that an area should be excluded from wilderness designation simply because someone claims that he once ran his snowmobile through that area. In Montana snowmobilers have literally millions of acres of non-wilderness National Forest and BLM land to which they have unrestricted access. They will not be unduly deprived by being excluded from the few thousands of acres being proposed for wilderness on the Rocky Mountain Front.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the boundaries proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance for the Rocky Mountain Front additions were developed after careful study and consideration, including town meetings held in Augusta and Choteau to which all interested persons were invited. They represent a compromise that has attempted to assure that all interests are given consideration. The objective of the Alliance has been to present to the delegation a very carefully developed proposal that constitutes what we sincerely believe is essential to our purpose of protecting a critically important wildlife ecosystem. Our proposal is not an inflated request, constituting a negotiating position that includes "trading stock" that we are willing to sacrifice if necessary to assure action. The areas we have proposed qualify completely as wilderness. Their wilderness qualities are among the highest of any of the RARE II areas. It is our sincere belief that the resource conflicts in these areas are negligible and are far outweighed by their wilderness values. The land allocation decisions for these areas contained in S. 2850 cannot be accepted by the Bob Marshall Alliance. The Choteau Mountain - Teton River High Peaks area must not be released. The full 42,000 acres of the Deep Creek area must be given wilderness status. The special management specificed for the Renshaw Mountain and Falls Creek - Silver King areas does not provide adequate protection, and the boundaries for these areas should be expanded to approximate those proposed by the Bob Marshall Alliance.

In closing, I wish to thank the sub-committee for this opportunity to comment on S. 2850. I regret that my comments have had to be so critical. They are not meant to be negative. Rather it is my intention to be positive and constructive by indicating the changes that are believed to be essential if an acceptable Montana Wilderness Act is to be developed.

STATEMENT OF DARYLE R. MURPHY, CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN, MONTANA CHAPTER, SIERRA CLUB, BILLINGS, MT

Mr. **MURPHY**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. My name is Daryle Murphy and I am speaking on behalf of the Montana chapter of the Sierra Club. The Montana wilderness bill as it is currently structured, as introduced by the delegation, fails to adequately protect Montana's roadless and wild lands and to my way of thinking represents an inaccurate assessment of the will of the people of Montana.

There have even been some studies done which indicate that at least 50 and perhaps up to 60 percent of Montanans favor additional wilderness. We in the Montana chapter of the Sierra Club at this time wish to reaffirm our support as previously documented for approximately 2.2 million acres of wilderness designation. This proposal has previously been known as alternative W and to fail to secure protection for those—to fail to secure protection for those lands does an injustice to Montanans living and countless future generations who will thereby be deprived of the opportunity to experience any unique wilderness experience.

As it was originally intended, at least from my understanding at the hearings, the field hearings last year, the bill as it is now is intended primarily to address the issues raised by the RARE II ninth court of appeals decision and within that context, it is neither necessary for this to be the last great wilderness bill, nor for this bill to include ancillary items such as release of BLM areas and wilderness deletions.

I would like to go on record as being in opposition to those two portions of the Montana wilderness bill.

I have some specific comments to make, which I have included and some written testimony, which I would like to have entered in the record regarding three areas with which I am familiar.

Senator **MELCHER**. They will be made part of the record.

Mr. **MURPHY**. Thank you. These three areas are in central and south central Montana: Pryor Mountains, Lost Water Canyon. A Forest Service recommended wilderness area, it is surrounded by BLM land and a portion of the Parks Service land which has been recommended for wilderness, but in the interest of keeping a clean bill, with the understanding that that can be legislated in the future, we will be willing to forgo immediate legislation of the BLM lands in the Pryors with the understanding that that is a future commitment.

The statements I enclosed have fairly detailed descriptions of the value of the Pryor Mountain complex as wilderness and it is substantial and quite unique for Montana, containing everything from a very arid desert to an alpine and subalpine plateau.

Crazy Mountains wilderness proposal, approximately 95,000 acres, which has not been included in the bill possibly because of the checkerboard ownership, we need to work on resolving that checkerboard ownership and preservation of the Crazies as a unique and very accessible alpine and subalpine ecosystem in Montana.

Incidentally, the Forest Service has already begun timber sales in the Crazy Mountains within a RARE II area. The area I believe is 541. We are appealing that decision, but it seemed to me somewhat usurpious of congressional authority for the Forest Service to go ahead with timber sales prior to any legislative disposition of these areas.

Finally, Lime Creek Plateau is actually part of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, if you think of it in those terms. It is an alpine area that probably many people do not think of as being dramatically attractive. From the standpoint of vistas, it is dramatically attractive, but it is mostly above timberline. The reason why it needs to be designated as wilderness is because it is above timberline and it is so accessible and it does have the attributes necessary for wilderness designation. It is terribly fragile. There are very few resource conflicts.

The Forest Service has unofficially recommended that snowmobiling is not a good idea in the Lime Creek Plateau Area. That to my knowledge was the major conflict previously in discussion on wilderness for that area.

I think I have used up my time, so I will stop right there.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Murphy follows:]

Testimony
on
Montana Wilderness Bill

The Montana Wilderness Bill as introduced by the Montana Delegation fails to adequately protect Montana's wild lands and represents an inaccurate assessment of the will of the people of Montana. In orddr for the bill to be rendered acceptable, drastic improvement must be made.

The Montana Chapter of the Sierra Club wishes to reaffirm its support for what has come to be knownas Alternative "W". The 2.2 million acres of this alternative must be protected by wilderness designation.

In the beginning, this bill was intended only to address the issues raised by acourt decision on the adequacy of the RARE II wilderness inventory. It was not indended to be the Last Great Wilderness Bill. We believ that the bill should be restricted to the resolution of RARE II problems and should be free of such things as release of BLM areas, consideration of S 393 areas and wilderness deletions.

I have appended summaries of three areas with which I am familiar for your perusal. fIn one of these areas, the Crazy Mountains, the Forest Service has already approved a timber sale, a usurpation of congressional authority to designate wilderness.

Respectfully submitted,

Daryle R. Murphy
Consefvation Chair
Montana Chapter-
Sierra Club
943 1/2 N. 30th
Billings, Montana

PROPOSED PRYOR MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

This wilderness contains the most isolated portion of the Pryors, characterized by the deep steep-walled Lost Water ~~Cave~~ Canyon, and lower portion of the Crooked Creek canyons and Burnt Timber Canyon. Douglas fir stands occur in the canyon bottoms up to the limestone cliffs. Back from the cliffs to the eastern boundary , which is the Tillett Ridge road, are grassy slopes interspersed with clumps of pine and fir. The charm of the area is the deepness and isolation of the canyons. Resource values center on outstanding primitive recreation opportunities and wildlife habitat (deer, primarily, a few elk, small game, and birds).

The naturalness of the wild Pryor Mountains is extremely high with no man-made intrusions in the area.

Within the complex is a great diversity of ecosystems determined primarily by annual precipitation and elevation. Thirteen separate ecosystem complexes have been identified in the Pryor Mountain Bighorn Canyon area (South, 1974), twelve of which are represented in this proposal.

Within the space of a few miles, the wilderness user can trek through an arid desert, progress upward into dense stands of Douglas fir (the Pryor Mountains represent the easternmost boundary of the range of the Douglas fir), scattered spruce and lodgepole pine, subalpine plateaus, limestone cliffs and several caves, providing ample opportunity for spelunking, backpacking, hiking, horseback riding and many other outdoor opportunities.

One may seek opportunities for viewing or photographing elk, bighorn sheep, deer, feral horses, an occasional black bear and many other wilderness denizens. Wildflowers in great variety, reflecting wide ecological diversity, are profuse in spring and summer and other excellent photographic subjects.

III. Resources

The canyons contain suitable nesting habitat for peregrine falcon--an endangered species.

The Pryors are rich in cultural resources. Limestone caves throughout the area show evidence of use by early man. There are also Research Natural Area and National Geologic Landmark classifications pending for portions of the area.

There is no commercial timber potential or mineral potential within the proposed wilderness. As a result of low grazing potential there are no active grazing allotments in most of the area. There are some fish in Lost Water Canyon Creek. Wilderness is definitely the resource of highest enduring value.

PROPOSED LINE CREEK PLATEAU WILDERNESS

Custer Forest
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 20,680
Recommended Wilderness: 20,680

I. Description

Located 8 miles south of Red Lodge, Montana, Line Creek is a high plateau with very steep canyon walls on the east and west sides. This Beartooth Range wild area varies in elevation from 7,500 to 10,000 feet for a topographic relief of about 2,500 feet. Although Douglas fir and limber pines occupy the slopes, the predominant vegetation is alpine grassland and tundra. Grab hold of you hat -- the winds seem to blow forever. The well-drained soils have a tough fibrous turf 1 to 5 inches thick -- a somewhat unique soil horizon. This beautiful, austere wildland is accessed from the Beartooth Highway, a major route to Yellowstone Park.

II. Wilderness Attributes

The high plateau regions are, as always, particularly susceptible to resource abuse and exceedingly slow to recover from damage. Add to this the ease of access from the Beartooth Highway, and the need for protection by wilderness designation becomes apparent. The great vistas, the opportunity to view mountain goats and other wildlife, the proximity to a major population center (Billings, MT) and ease of access all support designation of Line Creek Plateau as wilderness. Outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation abound. Little evidence of man's presence exists and designation of the area would enhance our Wilderness Preservation System. There are no human-made intrusions in the proposed wilderness.

III. Resources

Land uses and activities are limited to an occasional visitor during the summer and fall for riding, hiking and hunting.

The greatest potential of the area is for water production, wildlife habitat, and dispersed forms of recreation.

Roughly a third of the unit is above timberline. The remainder consists primarily of subalpine forest and rock outcrop/forest habitats. Near timberline are examples, relatively limited, of krummholz. Characteristic tree species are lodgepole pine Douglas fir, subalpine fir and Englemann spruce.

The unit is accessed by several trails from the Montana side, and a similar number from the Wyoming side. Water is less abundant in the Line Creek Plateau than in other areas of the Beartooth due to its location in a rain shadow. Line Lake in the southern portion is the only sizeable body of water. Several perennial streams drain the unit to the north and are tributaries of Rock Creek.

The unit provides important winter range for the mountain goat, and to a lesser extent, for elk. Line Creek Plateau supports about 150 head of elk during the summer. Black bear, deer, and even an occasional grizzly also inhabits the area.

Proposed Crazy Mountains Wilderness

Gallatin Forest
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 136,547 (86,747 net)
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 95,000 (64,000 net)

I. Description

The Crazy Mountains seem to preside over the high plains and the Yellowstone River Valley when seen from the east as one travels up from Billings to Big Timber. This range of sharp angles and rocks, rising over 6000 feet above the plains, looks very different from most mountain ranges. When one hikes up any of its trails, the impression of strangeness grows. This unusual appearance draws one to the Crazies and may be the reason that the area is one of the more popular destinations for weekend hiking and backpacking by Billings, Bozeman and Livingston residents.

II. Wilderness Attributes

Geologically, the Crazies are considered to be the largest exposed volcanic dike system on the face of the earth. Seen from the air, one can see the radiating ridges of this dike system. It is this peculiar geology with its associated rocks that account for the striking appearance of the range. The range is not as dry as its wind-swept rocky ridges may indicate. There are over 40 alpine lakes, only about 15 of which are named, and several glaciers hidden away in the recesses of the range. Precipitation is heavy and the basins and valley floors have lush meadows and subalpine forests. As with the Absarokas this range harbors some unique plant populations, including mock azalea (Menziesia ferruginea); one of the three known populations occurring away from the range in Western Montana. Rocks are not the best habitat for all wildlife, but it is for the mountain goat. The Crazies are home to one of the more significant populations of mountain goats in Montana.

III. Resource Values

The Crazies have, historically, seen little human development. There is little merchantable timber and the mineral prospects have proven to be of more value to promoters than to investors. The RARE II analysis of the area found it to be high in aesthetic and recreational values and low in manageable timber resources. The failure of the area to receive a wilderness or further planning recommendation was due to the checkerboard inholdings arising out of the Northern Pacific land grant. The railroad, realizing that there were no significant commodity values in these sections, sold them off early in the century. As a result, there are many owners of these inholdings. Development of the inholdings would stimulate extensive roadbuilding throughout the range and would result in numerous summer-home complexes. Such development would destroy recreational opportunities on the national forest lands and severely impact the mountain goat population.

STATEMENT OF DAN HEINZ, ON BEHALF OF SPORTSMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS IN SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Mr. HEINZ. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, I am Dan Heinz. Today, I am testifying on behalf of sportsmen's organizations in southwest Montana: The Skyline Sportsmen, Anaconda Sportsmen, Beaverhead Forest Concerned Citizens, and the Butte and Dillon chapters of Trout Unlimited.

There is not a preservationist in the whole membership. They are mostly working class folks who value their hunting, fishing, and general wildland recreation almost above the flag and St. Patricks Day.

I retired a year ago March after 25 years with the U.S. Forest Service. My career included jobs as range specialist, wildlife specialist, forester, district ranger and 3½ years as range, wildlife, recreation and fire staff officer for the Deer Lodge National Forest headquartered in Butte.

The Forest Service is a proud organization staffed with professionals and I am certainly proud to have served with them. However, problems arise when decisions are made to develop new land. The Forest Service does not often give adequate consideration to alternatives other than the ultimate textbook development levels.

Southwestern Montana sportsmen have become increasingly offended and alarmed by the heavyhanded development that occurs when the Forest Service enters new terrain. Minimum road construction to the Forest Service means 4.5 to 10 miles of permanent road per square mile. More and more consideration is being given elk habitat needs, but these measures do not address the loss of back country hunting and recreation opportunities that are damaged by high levels of development.

The fact that high intensity development could not occur without massive subsidies from their own government is salt in the wound. I call your attention to the recently released GAO report on below cost timber sales. This map shows timber development planned for the next decade in the Upper Big Hole. The plan shows from the Beaverhead Forest 100 million board feet of timber is scheduled for cutting over the next 9 years in areas that drain into the Big Hole River above the town of Divide.

This very conservatively translates into 12,000 clearcut acres and hundreds of miles of new roads. I have not included the heavy clearcutting on the Mount Hagan ranch, which also drains into the Big Hole.

Many of our members clearly see wilderness for all eligible acres as the antedote to subsidized logging of marginal timber lands. Others are uneasy with wilderness classification for all eligible acres but see it as their only line of defense.

We are witnessing a remarkable phenomenon. Twelve ranchers in the Big Hole Valley have broken their alliance with the timber industry and are strongly united in support of some wilderness. The ranchers fear loss of value to their private lands that roading and scenic damage may produce. Their petition is attached to my testimony.

Both these ranchers and the sportsmen are concerned about the Big Hole River. It must be protected from the increased siltation and fluctuation of water flows that will follow the heavy logging proposed.

We are specifically asking that all eligible acres in the West Pioneers, West Big Hole, North Big Hole, and the Stoney roadless area of the Rock Creek drainage be either classified at this time or returned to a hold category that will allow maturation of the mutual understanding that is building. We strongly support existing recommendations in the Electric Peak and A.P. additions. We are submitting a recommended adjustment in the Flint Range proposal boundary.

We oppose outright release of the Tobacco Roots and request more time to demonstrate the consensus that was budding earlier this year.

We oppose release of lands to such vague direction as minimum road construction necessary, as was given for the West Pioneers. The Forest Service has long claimed they constructed a minimum number of roads.

I would like to expand also a little bit on the situation with the Hollow Road in relation to the public involvement. Lloyd Thomas, president of the Anaconda Sportsmen's Club made a visit to my house when he found out I was coming here. He stressed the point that the club was asked about their opinion on the Hollow Creek Road prior to its construction.

It just happened that this proposal came immediately after closing of private land access to some traditional hunting areas. They now regret that decision. They like the access, but the heavy logging that is planned was not anticipated. The Butte Sportsmen and other organizations in that part of the State were blind sighted by the North Big Hole Road.

Also, I would like to make an additional comment concerning the cost benefits of road construction. Within my experience, the Forest Service does not deduct environmental costs from road construction benefits. For instance, loss of old growth habitat, loss of trophy bull opportunities, loss of back country recreation opportunties, siltation of roads or risk of increased access to endangered species, to name a few of those costs.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Heinz follows:]

BIG HOLE WATERSHED COALITION

Statement

Senate Subcommittee
Public Lands and Reserve Water
Washington, D.C.

August 9, 1984

presented by:
Dan Heinz
919 West Silver
Butte, MT 59701

I am Dan Heinz. Today, I am testifying on behalf of some Sportsmen's Organizations in Southwest Montana. The Skyline Sportsmen, Anaconda Sportsmen, Beaverhead Forest Concerned Citizens and the Butte and Dillon Chapters of Trout Unlimited.

There is not a preservationist in the whole membership. They are mostly working class folks who value their hunting, fishing and general wildland recreation above almost anything else.

I retired a year ago after 25 years with the U.S. Forest Service. My Career included jobs as Range Specalist, Wildlife Specalist, Forester, District Ranger, and 4 years as Range, Wildlife, Recreation and Fire Staff Officer for the Deerlodge National Forest headquartered in Butte.

The Forest Service is a proud organization staffed with professionals and I am certainly proud to have served with them.

However, problems arise when decisions are made to develop new land. The Forest Service does not often give adequate consideration to alternatives other than ultimate, text book development levels.

Southwestern Montana Sportsmen have become increasingly offended and alarmed by the heavy-handed development that occurs when the Forest Service enters new terrain. Minimum road construction to the Forest Service means 4.5 to 10 miles of permanent road per square mile. More and more consideration is being given elk habitat needs but these measures do not address the loss of back country hunting and recreation opportunities that are damaged by high levels of development.

The fact that high intensity development could not occur wihout massive subsidies from their own government is salt in the wound. I call your attention to the recently released GAO report on below cost timber sales. During 1981-82 the Beaverhead made 9 timbersales at a loss of $1,369,000.00. The Deerlodge made 11 timbersales at a loss of $824,000.00. All in apparent violation of Section 6K of NFMA.

This map shows timber development planned for the next decade in the Upper Big Hole. 100MM board feet of timber are scheduled for cutting over the next 9 years in areas that drain into the Big Hole River above the town of Divide.

This translates into 12000 acres of clear cut and hundreds of miles of new roads.

Many of our members clearly see wilderness for all eligible acres as the antedote to subsized logging of marginal timber lands. Others are uneasy with wilderness classification for all eligible acres but see it as their only line of defense.

We are witnessing a remarkable phenomenon. 12 Ranchers in the Big Hole Valley have broken their alliance with the timber industry and are strongly united in support of some wilderness. The ranchers fear loss of value to their land that roading and scenic damage will produce.

Both these ranchers and the sportsmen are concerned about the Big Hole River. It must be protected from the increased siltation and fluctuation of water flows that will follow heavy logging of the headwaters.

We are specifically asking that all eligible acres in the West Pioneers, West Big Hole, North Big Hole and the Stoney roadless area be either classified at this time or returned to a hold catagory that will allow maturation of the mutual understanding that is building. We strongly support existing recommendations in the Electric Peak and A.P. additions. We are submitting a recommended adjustment in the Flint Range proposal boundry.

We oppose outright release of the Tobacco Roots and request more time to demonstrate the consensus that was budding during the "RARE 8" process.

We absolutely oppose release of any lands to such vague di ection as "minimum road construction necessary" as was given for the West Pioneers. The Forest Service has always claimed they constructed a "minimum number of roads". This is giving them Carte Blanche.

RANCHERS OF THE NORTH BIG HOLE hereby state for the record and for consideration of the Montana Delegation the following points which we believe support our position for the inclusion of the North Big Hole into the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. We urge your unequivocal support for wilderness of this meritorious area for us and for all Montanans (see attached map):

1. Roading and logging this area could have adverse affects on our irrigation water and, therefore, productivity of our ranches.
2. We believe the impacts on our watershed and the destruction of the pristine wildlands in our area will diminish the value of ranches now and in the future.
3. We are against the massive timber subsidy required to log this area and particularly the roads they require.
4. We are against the illegal road built in our area; it was designed to deny wilderness consideration for this important Montana resource.
5. We know this area is significant to game habitat, particularly for elk calving.
6. We support the ranchers in the West Big Hole. We hope they can obtain the "land use" most appropriate for their area since they will be, like us, most affected by the Montana Delegation's final judgement..
7. We appoint Jim Welch of Arrow Ranch to be spokesmen.

Ed R Bacon
ED R. BACON RANCH

Kim Bacon
ED R BACON RANCH

Dwane [illegible] Keyes
Spanner Ranch Grazing area

[illegible]
[illegible] 5 Ranch.

071484

Page Two
Signatures

RANCHERS OF THE NORTH BIG HOLE statements regarding the North Big Hole Addition to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness:

DOUBLE FORK RANCH

Jim Phalan by JWW
NORTH FORK RANCH

Paul Brunner
North FORK RANCH

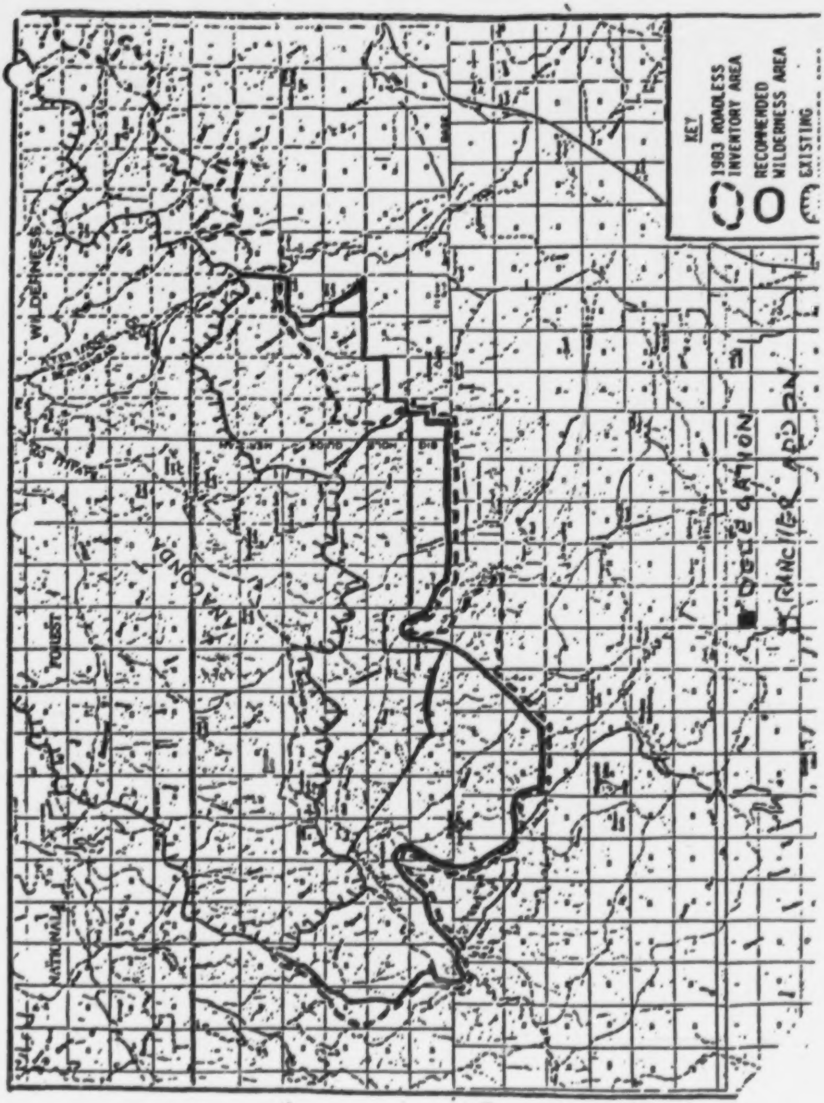
Lawrence Christiansen
C̄ Ranch

John Buck
BUCK RANCH

ARROW RANCH

Wildwood Land & Cattle Co.
Ray J. Burrows
Calvin D. Burrows
Lil Bren Ranch Co.

Montanans for the Protection of the Big Hole
by JB Anderson its Vice-President


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING
WILDERNESS
ANACONDA
FOREST
NATIONAL

TROUT
UNLIMITED

August 7, 1984

To Whom it May Concern:

The Board of Directors of the George Grant Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Butte, Montana authorizes Mr. Dan Heinz to represent our chapter during Congressional hearings concerning wilderness protection for certain areas in the Big Hole River drainage.

We feel that wilderness designation of the Big Hole watershed areas is essential for the protection of the Big Hole River and in particular want to see wilderness protection given to the West Big Hole, North Big Hole (Musigbrod Lake to Howell Creek) and East Pioneers along with continuing protection for the West Pioneer Mountains.

It is our understanding that the Beaverhead National Forest is scheduling some fifty timber sales within the Big Hole drainage during the decade. We feel that logging of this scale will be harmful to the hydrology of the Big Hole. To date, no one (including the Forest Service) has systematically studied the effect of the planned logging on the Big Hole. We also urge that such studies as well as economic studies comparing logging to the recreational and agricultural values, which would undoubtedly suffer from such sales be conducted by independent parties other than the Forest Service.

We urge your special consideration of the Big Hole River watershed areas for wilderness protection.

Sincerely,

John S Miller

John S. Miller
President
George Grant Chapter of
Trout Unlimited

Founded in 1959... Over twenty years of trout and salmon conservation
Washington, D.C. Headquarters • 118 Park Street, S.E. • Vienna, Virginia 22180 • (703) 281-1100

Beaverhead
Forest
Concerned
Citizens
P.O. BOX 3724
Butte, Montana
59701

August 7, 1985

Senator John Melcher
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Melcher:

Dan Heinz is authorized to present testimony on behalf of Beaverhead Forest Concerned Citizens at the hearing on the Montana Wilderness Bill.

BFCC's main concern is the four areas within the Big Hole River drainage. We support an 86,000 acre wilderness area in the West Big Hole, 148,000 acres of wilderness in the West Pioneers, 33,000 acres in the north Big Hole and 80,000 acres in the East Pioneers.

Sincerely,
Al Luebeck
Chairman

SKYLINE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC.
P. O. BOX 173 BUTTE, MONTANA 59701

3 August 1984

To Whom It may Concern:

The board of directors for the Skyline Sportsmens' Club has appointed Dan Heinze as a spokesman for the group on Senate Bill 2850, which will be heard in Washington D.C., on August 9th.

Our club supports wilderness designation for the West Big Hole, the North Big Hole, and the East and West Pioneers and also other areas designated in Alternative W.

We also feel that a full economic impact study should be done by some group other than the forest service on the entire Big Hole watershed.

Dolus lakes should be definately included in the Flint creek wilderness area.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tony Sokoorn
President.

ANACONDA SPORTSMEN'S CLUB

OFFICE OF ____________ BOX 1375, ANACONDA, MONT. 59711

August 6, 1984

Dear Sirs:

Mr. Dan Heinz will represent the Anaconda Sportsman Club during the wilderness hearings. As he knows all our concerns about this bill

Thank You,
L. F. Thomas
Pres. of Anaconda Sportsman Club
L.F. Thomas

NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER SALES - REGIONS 1, 2, 4, AND 6
SUMMARY OF GAINS AND LOSSES FOR FISCAL YEARS 1981 AND 1982

	1981				1982			
	Sales showing gains		Sales showing losses		Sales showing gains		Sales showing losses	
Region and Ntl. Forest	No. of sales	Amount of gain	No. of sales	Amount of loss	No. of sales	Amount of gain	No. of sales	Amount of loss
		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)		(thousands)
Region 1 (Missoula):								
Beaverhead	-	$ -	6	$ 720	-	$ -	3	$ 649
Bitterroot	2	82	8	1,073	2	21	10	1,415
Clearwater	16	1,001	17	2,841	6	97	22	3,005
Custer	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	195
Deerlodge	1	1	7	573	-	-	3	251
Flathead	8	195	9	972	11	183	30	6,203
Gallatin	-	-	7	1,551	-	-	4	975
Helena	-	-	4	1,098	1	2	5	951
Idaho Panhandle	44	6,216	22	3,245	29	2,391	34	4,891
Kootenai	52	5,039	30	2,590	20	977	31	3,343
Lewis and Clark	-	-	3	522	-	-	1	128
Lolo	7	400	14	2,431	1	4	8	727
Nezperce	5	21	5	1,400	4	16	16	3,487
Total	135	12,955	132	19,016	74	3,691	169	26,220
Region 2 (Denver):								
Arapaho	-	-	1	358	-	-	-	-
Bighorn	-	-	4	1,164	-	-	5	735
Black Hills	4	44	17	3,228	1	3	19	2,337
Grand Mesa	-	-	3	730	-	-	4	1,539
Gunnison	-	-	3	317	-	-	1	417
Medicine Bow	-	-	5	2,380	-	-	4	2,078
Pike	-	-	6	401	-	-	1	157
Rio Grande	-	-	7	1,545	-	-	8	1,621
Roosevelt	-	-	2	353	-	-	4	304
Routt	-	-	10	1,361	-	-	9	1,650
San Isabel	-	-	2	115	-	-	5	451
San Juan	1	7	10	1,691	-	-	4	1,161
Shoshone	-	-	2	215	-	-	1	510
White River	-	-	3	259	-	-	8	900
Total	5	51	75	14,117	1	3	73	13,860

Silver State Post
Deer Lodge, MT

Letters to the editor

the editor

WHAT IS MULTIPLE USE? Under the requirements of the Multiple Use Act of 1960 (Public Law 86-517), the United States Forest Service must manage its lands to provide sustained yields of the following five renewable resources: recreation, forage, wood, water and wildlife. Recent headlines in the "Silver State Post" have suggested that "vast" tracts of local public land might be classified by Congress as wilderness areas and thus be changed from "highly productive multiple use land into non-productive use land." The articles claim that such a designation would subtract tremendous amounts of timber from our local timber base and lead to loss of local jobs and industry. Because of the emotional nature of this issue, we would like to give readers some facts and figures to consider, and then explore the meaning of the critical word, multiple use.

The Deer Lodge National Forest contains 1,187,000 acres. Of this area, 42,000 acres have been classified by Congress as wilderness. These 42,000 acres are Deer Lodge National Forest's contribution to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness. Of the remaining 1,145,000 acres of non-wilderness land, 432,000 acres (38%) have been inventoried under RARE I and II as roadless. Of these 432,000 acres, conservationists are asking that 61,000 acres be set aside for future generations as the *Flint Creek/Dolus Lakes* Wilderness Area. Does 61,000 acres more, 9% of wilderness out of 1,187,000 acres of Deer Lodge National Forest sound "vast"? What is "vast" is the remaining 91% or 1,084,000 acres which would remain open to logging.

Using current Deer Lodge National Forest survey information, only 30% of the forest land offers commercial timber. The acreage within the proposed Flint Creek/Dolus Lakes Wilderness boundaries is for the most part listed in timber inventory maps as non-forested (lakes, mountain peaks, alpine tundra, talus slopes, etc.) and non-commerical forest (non-merchantable species such as subalpine fir, alpine larch, and albicaulis pine, or harvestable species too small because of adverse growing conditions).

What is the life expectancy of the timber industry in the Deer Lodge Valley? Given recent market demands, logging practices, and regrowth rates (110 years to produce a 8-9 foot dbh tree), the timber industry here has a probable life expectancy of 15 to 20 years. The existence of a high elevation wilderness area containing minimal amounts of pole size timber will not seriously alter this life expectancy.

The biggest concern is allowing ranchers to maintain their damsites for irrigation purposes. With minor adjustments of the wilderness boundaries, damsites on Mountain Ben lake, Little Goat Lake, and Upper and Lower Elliot Lakes could be excluded from the wilderness, as are all the others. Or, a special use permit could be granted to ranchers to have vehicular access to their damsites for monitoring flow and dam repair. The general public would be excluded from using vehicles on these roads.

The proposed Flint Creek/Dolus Lakes Wilderness has essentially no grazing value except for incidental grazing occurring a few hundred feet inside the RARE II boundary for the Dolus Lakes region. Nearly all mining activity, past and present, (except for the deplorable Union Carbide exploration of the Thompson Lake Basin) is outside the proposed boundaries. The probability of gas and oil development is low to non-existent.

What has happened to the goat and moose hunting in our proposed region? One only has to review current hunting permits to find there are no goat permits available now and moose permits have been reduced to three. It certainly was not hard winters that reduced the populations, but more accessibility by vehicle to this region by hunters. A wilderness designation would reverse this declining wildlife population trend.

Next, consider watershed. Disturb the marginal timber in the proposed Flint Creek/Dolus Lakes Wilderness and degradation of valuable watershed will result. Disturb the watershed and a reduction of irrigation water results, with loss of ranching and farming income and jobs. Destroy watershed and loss of valuable wildlife forage and breeding grounds results. Destroy watershed and loss of mountain fisheries results. If lower elevation erosion occurs from loss of upper elevation watershed, where is the soil to plant future generations of trees?

When mining leaves the area looking like the Gold Creek dredge ponds or a "moonscape", then we lose the scenery that draws the tourist, sightseer, backpacker, photographer, horseback rider, mountain climber, cross country skier, snowshoer, hunter and fisherman. These recreational activities do create jobs and infuse dollars into the local economy (sport equipment, food, lodging, gas, etc.).

Under the National Forest Management Act, forest planning has to be reviewed every 10 to 15 years. This act recognizes wilderness as a legitimate multiple use which should be periodically considered in forest plans just as timber, grazing, minerals, etc., are considered. In summation, we ask the public to consider how wilderness classification of the high elevation core of the Flint Creek Range will affect the sustained yields of these renewable resources: water, wildlife, forage, recreation and wood. The first four would be enhanced, and the last would be minimally impacted. Wilderness IS multiple use!

Stanley N. Smith, M.D.
Lee Silliman

Editor's Note: Misters Smith and Silliman have presented some additional, and needed, information on one of the proposed Wilderness areas, Flint Creek/Dolus. This high elevation area contains little timber and little forage as the writers correctly point out.

However, Smith and Silliman did not address the many other areas considered for Wilderness. The acreage is vast. In the Deerlodge Forest: Upper East Fork 5000 acres; Storm Lake 7620 acres; Electric Peak 10,890 acres; Stony Mountain 14,865 acres, and also Flint Range/Dolus 66,400 acres. In the Helena National Forest; Electric Peak 18,610 acres. In the Beaverhead National Forest: North Big Hole 31,200 acres; East Pioneer 89,658 acres; West Big Hole 79,200 acres. That is "vast" by anyone's measure.

Mr. Smith, in a call to the SSP editor, said the information for the letter was gleaned from National Forest Service, State Fish and Game and Montana Wildlife Federation sources.

STATEMENT OF CHRIS DEVENY, HELENA FOREST CONSERVATION COALITION, HELENA, MT

Ms. DEVENY. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, members of the committee, my name is Chris Deveny from Helena, MT. I am here today representing the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition, which is comprised of 10 Helena area conservation groups with a combined membership of over 1,000 local forest users.

Our organization advocates the wise use and sustained yield of all of Helena National Forest's resources. Further, we feel that the most sustainable economic natural resource values to be found on the Helena National Forest are its wildlife, watershed, wildland, and nonmotorized recreational values.

The rapidly growing network of forest roads in the Helena Forest is of paramount concern to our organization. Every year for the past 4 years, 13,000 or more acres have been roaded on the Helena National Forest. Every year there are additional elk security areas, watershed protection areas and nonmotorized recreational areas removed from the natural resource base of the Helena Forest.

At this rate of roading, there will be no roadless areas left in the Helena Forest in 28 years. This Forest Service data is attached to my written testimony, which I have submitted for the record.

In response to this growing threat to the values that we consider most important on the Helena National Forest, the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition is proposing to this Congress a plan to protect for all generations those areas on the Helena National Forest that offer the greatest watershed, wildlife, and wildland recreational values. I have attached to my testimony a summarized description or descriptions of the seven Helena Forest roadless areas that we are requesting for wilderness designation. These areas total less than one-third of the remaining roadless lands on the Helena Forest.

I would like to briefly highlight some important information about these areas: First, we support and appreciate the inclusion of the additions to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness in Senate bill 2850. Similarly, we are pleased that at least the most fragile core of the Electric Peak area has been protected in this bill.

We are still concerned, however, that the future impacts to the unroaded areas around this core will still have an adverse impact to the wildlife and to the watershed of the Little Black Foot River.

We ask that you consider all 46,000 acres of this roadless area for inclusion into the Electric Peak Wilderness Area.

Second, our coalition was surprised and disappointed at the exclusion from the wilderness bill of the magnificent Mount Baldy area. The high mountain ridges and rocky mountain faces are especially dry this time of year, but the pristine alpine glacier formed lakes that dot this 5,000-acre roadless area make it the most unique part of the southern Big Belt Range. As well, it is an important habitat for goats, elk, bear, deer, and other wild land dependent species.

The Mount Baldy roadless area was excluded from S. 2850, although it was one of the few areas where unanimous consensus for wilderness was reached by individuals representing timber, mining, oil and gas, and recreationists. I have attached a copy of the minutes of that October 21, 1983, meeting, documenting this unanimous consensus.

The Helena Forest Conservation Coalition cannot understand the reasoning behind the exclusion of this area. We ask your serious reconsideration of Mount Baldy.

The other four areas we propose for wilderness are Black Mountain, Camas Creek, Falls Creek, and Nevada Mountain. All of these areas protect some of the Helena area's most fragile watersheds, support impressive wildlife populations and provide year-round nonmotorized recreational opportunities.

The Elkhorn Mountains are now being studied for designation as a wildlife management unit by the Forest Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. S. 2850 would terminate this 3-year cooperative agreement even before the final environmental impact statement for the Elkhorn studies is completed. All 160,000 acres of these valuable wildlands is currently recognized by the Helena National Forest as important wildlife habitat and are being managed as such.

The Helena Forest Conservation Coalition supports the continuance of the current wildlife management unit study and therefore we see no reason for including the Elkhorns in S. 2850 as it is now written in the bill.

All of the areas that I have mentioned represent the best of what is left of the natural resource values that we have considered vital to maintain on the Helena National Forest. It is a unique forest where the Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains. A forest where the sustained yield of wildlife and wildlands is just as or more important to our local economy and lifestyle as is the sustained yield of any other renewable resource. With the exception of the Elkhorns, which should continue to be managed as a wildlife management unit, the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition asks that Congress include the addition of the roadless areas I have described to the Montana wilderness bill.

Last, I would like to mention that last Thursday, nearly 200 Helenans took the time to gather on the downtown mall to show their support for the Montana wilderness and their disappointment in S. 2850. They gathered to send a clear directive to the Montana congressional delegation and Congress that they want their valuable wildlands protected through wilderness designation.

I present to you now a petition signed by 143 people at that rally. The petition calls for S. 2850 to be rewritten to designate 1.9 million acres as wilderness as opposed by the Montana Wildlands Coalition. The people who signed this petition at the rally and took the time to attend the rally deserve your special consideration when making decisions about their wildlands.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Deveny follows:]

TESTIMONY OF THE HELENA FOREST CONSERVATION COALITION
SENATE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
AUGUST 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

My name is Chris Deveny, here today representing the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition, which is comprised of ten Helena-area conservation groups with a combined membership of over 1,000 local forest users. Our organization advocates the wise use and sustained yield of all of Helena National Forest's resources; further, we feel that the most sustainable economic (and aesthetic) natural resource values to be found on the Helena National Forest are its wildlife, watershed, wildland and non-motorized recreational values.

Helena Forest, on an average annual basis, receives very little moisture. This, combined with the area's harsh winters, does not provide an optimal climate for growing trees. In fact, Helena's forests typically produce only 5,000-10,000 board feet per acre, compared to 100,000-200,000 board feet per acre in the Pacific Northwest or the Southeast United States. This sparceness of timber means, of course, that more miles of roads have to be built on the Helena National Forest to access an equal amount of timber growing in, say Oregon or Georgia. This rapidly growing network of forest roads is of paramount concern to the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition.

Every year for the past four years, 13,000 more acres have been roaded on the Helena National Forest (see attached U.S. Forest Service data). Every year there are additional elk security areas, watershed values and non-motorized recreational areas removed from the natural resource base of the Helena National Forest.

In response to this growing threat to the values that we consider most important on the Helena National Forest, the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition is proposing to this Congress as a part of the statewide Montana Wildlands Coalition proposal, a plan to protect for all generations those areas on the Helena National Forest that offer the highest watershed, wildlife and wildland recreational values. I have attached to my testimony summarized descriptions of the six Helena Forest roadless areas that we are requesting for wilderness designation. They total less than one third of the remaining roadless lands on the Forest. I would like to briefly highlight some important information about these areas:

First, the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition would like to express its appreciation for the inclusion of the additions to the historic Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area in SB2805. Similarly, we are pleased that at least the most fragile core of the Electric Peak area has been protected in this bill. We are still concerned, however, that future impacts to the unroaded areas around this "core" will still have substantial impacts on the wildlife, watershed, and non-motorized recreation values of this area. We hope that this Congress will yet consider th total of this roadless area for inclusion into the Electric Peak Wilderness Area.

Our coalition was most surprised and disappointed, as indeed were most people in the Helena area, about the exclusion of Mount Baldy from wilderness consideration. At an October 21, 1983 meeting in Helena, there was unanimous consensus between industry and conservation leaders concerning wilderness designation for this area (minutes of meeting attached). In the final version of SB2850, we hope that Congress will consider such efforts towards compromise and agreement made previously. In our attempts at eventual resolution of the RARE II situation, I believe we should try to honor past agreements whenever possible.

Another small area most worthy of your consideration into the Montana Wilderness Bill is the Black Mountain (Lazyman Gulch) area just west of Helena. This area's close proximity to the Mount Helena City Park suggests one of its most valuable resources - hiking and horseback riding opportunities for Helena area residents and guests. The Black Mountain area also supports 200-300 head of elk and adjoins Ten Mile Creek, which supplies a portion of the City of Helena's water supply.

The three other wilderness areas we propose are Camas Creek, Nevada Mountain and Falls Creek. All of these areas protect some of the Helena areas most fragile watersheds, support impressive wildlife populations and provide year-round non-motorized recreational opportunities.

The Elkhorn Mountains, closely monitored by the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition, are now being studied for designation as a Wildlife Management Unit by the Forest Service and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. SB2850 would terminate this three year old cooperative effort even before the final Environmental Impact Statement for the Elkhorn study is completed. By prematurely terminating this previously congressionally mandated study, the substantial progress and public input already generated by this effort would be nullified. All 160,000 acres of these valuable wildlands are currently recognized by the Helena National Forest as important wildlife habitat, and are being managed as such. We support the continuance of the current Wildlife Management Unit study and therefore see no reason for including the Elkhorns in SB2850.

All of the above areas represent what is best of what is left of the natural resource values that the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition considers so vital to maintain on the Helena National Forest - a unique forest where the

Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains. A forest where the sustained yield of wildlife and wildlands is just (or more) important to our local economy and lifestyle as is the sustained yield of any other renewable resources on the forest. Excluding the Elkhorns which should be managed as a Wildlife Management Unit, the Helena Forest Conservation Coalition hopes that Congress will consider the addition of the above roadless areas to the Montana Wilderness Bill.

HELENA FOREST CONSERVATION COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE:

Last Chance Audubon, Noel Rosetta, Cary Lund
Missouri River Chapter, Trout Unlimited, Bill Dunham
Prickley Pear Sportsmen, Erich Weber, Ken Knudson
Elkhorn Citizens Organization, Mark Meloy
Strawberry Butte Concerned Citizens, Patrick Murry
Nevada Creek Concerned Sportsmen, Gary Ingman
Helena Outdoor Club, Chip Clauson, Wendy Wheeler
Lewis and Clark Archers, Glenn Phillips, Jim Stipcich
Upper Missouri Group, Sierra Club, Ruth Gardner, Rosemary Rowe
Black Mountain Wildlife Association, Doug Powell
Outfitters and Guides, Jack Schilla
At Large - Barry Crutcher, Chris Deveny

Respectfully submitted for the record by:

Chris Deveny
Chris Deveny

Helena N.F.

October 21, 1983

To: Tim Gallagher, Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee

From: Ken Knudson - Al Kington, Cochairmen, Task Force
Ad Hoc Committee (Helena)

Subject: Review of RARE II Areas - Helena National Forest

The Task Force to address RARE II Areas on the Helena National Forest met on October 12, 1983, at the PCA-Federal Land Bank Building. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee in attendance were: Ken Knudson (for Bill Cunningham), Bill Cunningham, Ken Nelson (for Tom Coston), Mons Teigen, Sid Groff, Don Allen (for Ward Shanahan), Bob Bushnell (for Nina Smith), and John Leary (for Jim Bentley). A total attendance of 22 participated in the discussions.

We concentrated the discussions on the three primary RARE II Areas assigned to the Task Force (1609, 1616 and 1617). Due to a large concern by others, we addressed Nevada Mountain (1606) also. The following is our report by area.

1609 - Major concerns on this area were centered around:

(1) nonmotorized recreational interests within a short distance of Helena and that is not composed of "rock and ice",
(2) mineral potential of this area - lead, silver and gold is low to high,
(3) three outfitters use this area at this time,
(4) the commercial timber on this area is within the working circle of Pyramid Lumber and Champion International,
(5) Chip Clawson, Helena Outdoor Club, brought up the point that elk security areas were of major concern,
(6) Bob Bushnell indicated that snow-mobilers used the area overall.

Other concerns address oil and gas exploration, wildland fishing experiences, Barry Crutcher also indicated that he had seen grizzly in this area, the area is also included in the Continental Divide Trail, hydrological affects on Clark Fork and Boulder Rivers.

Kent Nelson also gave the figures on the imputs for this area and he has those figures available to the Committee.

No decision was made on this area and it was agreed to meet with the Deer Lodge Task Force at 8:00 a.m., November 4, prior to the Ad Hoc Committee meeting to see if there is consensus.

H-2

1616 - Major concerns:

(1) a lot of patented mining claims,
(2) 421 aum's grazing,
(3) numerous springs at all elevations,
(4) standing timber inventory of 128 mmbm,
(5) three outfitters use -- Henry Barron to send visitor day documentation,
(6) elk security area,
(7) Smith River watershed,
(8) recreational use - potential - Kent Nelson reflected that there was a potential of 2,000 motorized vd's and 4,000 vd's nonmotorized use,
(9) Boulder and Camas Lakes important for fishing.

No consensus was reached on this area.

* 1617 MT Baldy - Major points addressed:

(1) no known mineral or oil and gas potential and no active mining at present,
(2) 67 mmbm standing timber inventory,
(3) snowmobile use from Townsend and White Sulphur Springs with the exception of Mt. Baldy,
(4) 35-55 mountain goats within the area and on the increase,
(5) Upper Baldy, Hidden, Grace and Edith Lakes are active fisheries,
(6) Needles area critical for elk,
(7) Edith and Baldy highest peaks in Big Belts,
(8) high nonmotorized recreational use throughout area.

Consensus for wilderness designation on the area was reached.

1606 - Nevada Mountain was of major concern to all participants and much discussion was held covering the following points:

(1) elk security for 800-1,000 animals,
(2) 220 mmbm standing timber volume within working circle of Pyramid Lumber and Champion,
(3) part of Continental Divide Scenic Trail,
(4) heavy snowmobile use throughout from Lincoln and Helena,
(5) reported grizzly sighting - document report from Lincoln Ranger District which reflects a timber crew's report that he thought he saw a grizzly (Kington),
(6) high mineral potential - Sid Groff,
(7) Phillips Petroleum indicated high amount of interest in this area,
(8) walk-in hunting and cross-country skiing are high use activities,
(9) Black Mountain and Nevada Mountain are the highest peaks within 50 miles along the Continental Divide.

No consensus on this area was reached. Jerry Parker agreed that a boundary adjustment could possibly be made with the timber industry.

H-4

Name	Representing	Address
Al Kington	Gov. Ad Hoc	Helena
Mona Teigen	Gov. Ad Hoc	Helena
Kent Nelson	Helena NF	Helena
Jerry Parker	Pyramid Mountain Lumber	Seeley Lake
Jeff Herbert	Fish & Game	Townsend
Sid Groff	Minerals & water (independent)	Butte
Barry Crutcher	Independent	Helena
Stuart Doggett	PLC	Helena
Carl Mullendore	Phillips Petroleum Co.	Denver
Dick Scharff	Phillips Petroleum Co.	Denver
John Himebaugh	Phillips Petroleum Co.	Denver
Don Allen	Mt. Petroleum Assoc.	Helena
Robert Bushnell (Nina Smith)	Mt. Snowmobile Assoc.	Helena
John Leary (for Jim Bentley)	Gov. Ad Hoc, Champion Timberlands	Helena
Gary Ingman	Nevada Creek Concerned Sportsmen, Prickly Pear Sportsmen, HFCC	Helena
Glenn Phillips	HFCC	Helena
Chip Clawson	Helena Outdoor Club, HFCC	Helena
Noel Rosetta	Last Chance Audubon	Helena
Bill Cunningham	Mt. Wilderness Assoc.	Helena
Erich Weber	Nevada Cr. Concerned Sportsmen HFCC	Helena
Henry Barron	Montana Outfitters & Guides	Box 552, Townsend
Claire Moseley	ARCO	555 17th St., Denver 80202
Joseph Lindecke	ARCO	Denver
Steven Hendrick	ARCO	Denver
Ken Knudson	MWF	Helena

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST ROADLESS AREA RE-INVENTORY, SEPTEMBER, 1983

AREA #	AREA NAME	1979 RARE II STUDY ORIGINAL ACRES GROSS	1979 RARE II STUDY ORIGINAL ACRES NET	CURRENTLY ROADLESS NEW ACRES GROSS	CURRENTLY ROADLESS NEW ACRES NET	REASONS FOR CHANGE
F1485	Silver King-Falls Creek	6,300	6,300	6,300	6,300	No Change
A1485	Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan	57,600	54,700	55,020	52,120	1983 Road Construction & Timber Sale
1601	Lincoln Gulch	10,500	10,500	8,480	8,480	1984 Timber Sale
1602	Anaconda Hill	19,800	18,600	19,800	18,600	No Change
1603	Specimen Creek	18,900	17,500	13,200	11,820	1982 Roads, 1984 Timber Sale
1604	Crater Mountain	9,400	9,200	9,400	9,200	No Change
1605	Ogden Mountain	14,000	14,000	11,860	11,860	1980, 1983 Timber Sales
1606	Nevada Mountain	58,800	58,200	53,100	52,500	1980, 1984 Timber Sales
1607	Jericho Mountain	11,400	11,200	9,280	9,100	1982, 1983 Roads and Timber Sales
1608	Lazyman Gulch	13,000	12,700	13,000	12,700	No Change
1609	Electric Peak	38,500	37,000	31,080	30,300	1980, 1983 Timber Sales
A1610	Holter	2,400	1,800	2,400	1,800	No Change
W1610	Big Log	10,000	10,000	9,272	9,272	Recalculation of acreage total
1611	Devils Tower	9,200	8,900	9,200	8,900	No Change
1612	Middleman Mountain	28,500	27,000	26,260	24,760	1981 Timber Sale
1616	Camas Creek	44,500	38,700	34,950	29,510	1982, 1983 Timber Sales
1617	Mount Baldy	16,800	15,800	15,600	14,600	1981 Timber Sale
1618	Grassy Mountain	5,600	5,400	5,600	5,400	No Change
1619	Ellis Canyon	15,900	8,800	15,900	8,800	No Change
1621	Irish Gulch	0	0	7,500	7,140	Split from Camas Creek by 1983 Timber Sale
	TOTALS	391,100	366,300	357,202	333,162	

AREA #	AREA NAME	ROADLESS AREAS COVERED IN PRE 1979 UNIT PLANS GROSS	ROADLESS AREAS COVERED IN PRE 1979 UNIT PLANS NET	CURRENTLY ROADLESS NEW ACRES GROSS	CURRENTLY ROADLESS NEW ACRES NET	REASONS FOR CHANGE
X1613	Hedges Mountain	23,000	22,500	9,680	9,260	Mining, Boundary Adjustments
X1614	Hellgate Gulch	22,000	21,500	19,840	19,140	Existing Timber Sale
X1615	Cayuse Mountain	26,300	24,800	21,700	20,560	Access to private land, mining
	TOTALS	71,300	68,800	51,220	48,960	

$\boxed{435,100}$ − $\boxed{382,122}$ = 52,978 Acres Roaded in four years = 13,244 Acres/year

Roadless Area Recommendations

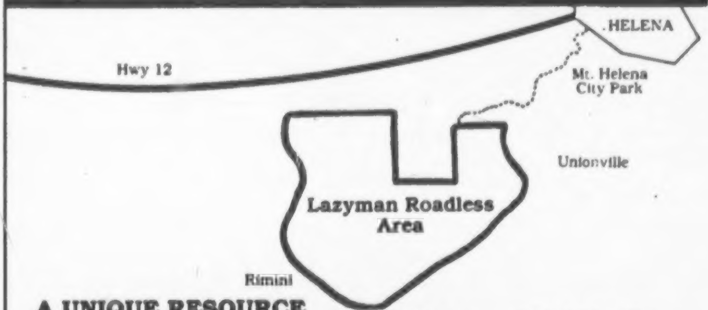
We now come to perhaps the most important part of your public review. We would like you to study the enclosed map carefully and then give us your recommendations on which areas should be wilderness on the Helena Forest and which of these areas should not be wilderness. It is important for you to also give us your site specific reasons for each area, including individual qualities of each area that led to your recommendations. There is some room on the attached response form for your comments but feel free to attach additional sheets if you wish.

Helena's Best Kept Secret

Can't Stay That Way

Save the Lazyman Roadless Area

Nestled quietly between Unionville, Travis Creek, Rimini, and Colorado Gulch, [illegible] Lazyman Roadless Area is one of Helena's best kept secrets. Nestled quietly in the Federal Building, the Forest Service is planning to ax it.



A UNIQUE RESOURCE

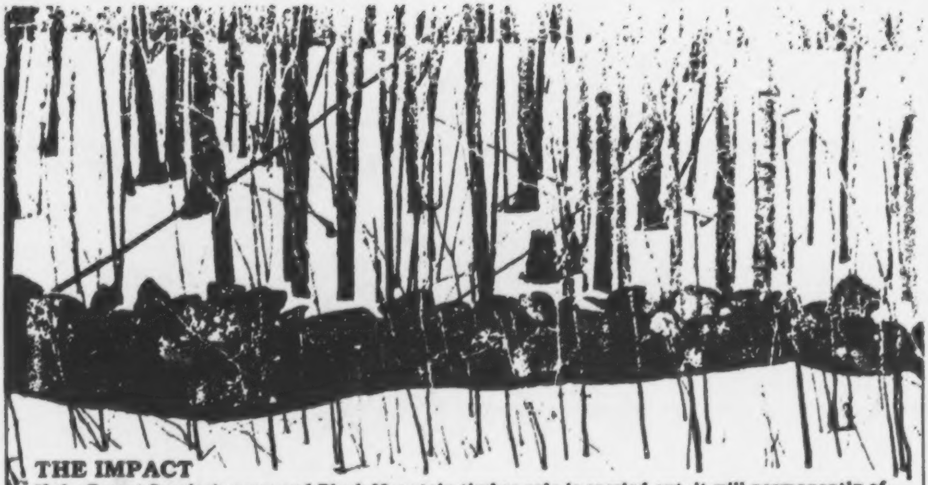
The Lazyman area is the only remaining roadless area within hiking distance of Helena. Adjacent to the Mt. Helena Scenic Trail, it is accessible by foot from Helena over public land. It is also one of the most valuable big game areas within our hunting district. It helps keep Montana special — not only to Montanans, but to tourists (our third largest industry).

ONLY YOU can prevent the Forest Service from permanently ruining the Lazyman area with its Black Mountain timber sale scheduled for 1988.

WELFARE LOGGING?

If the Black Mountain timber sale happens, it will be a Black Day for the taxpayer. The cost of the sale will be far in excess of what the sale yields. And this is to say nothing of what it will cost in terms of other economic and social impacts.

In spite of this, the Forest Service is obliged to provide some target amount of timber from somewhere. Let's give them a clear message: NOT HERE!



THE IMPACT

If the Forest Service's proposed Black Mountain timber sale is carried out, it will permanently affect the character of the Lazyman area. Several miles of roads would be constructed and maintained at taxpayer expense. These roads would be designed to provide access for future timber "harvests," which would be difficult to resist once the precedent is set.

The Forest Service has in its own words done a "bad job" in closing roads, as we have seen locally. Once a road is built, it is used, and use leads to many likely abuses: illegal game kills, littering, trespassing, and vehicle traffic.

Wildlife would certainly suffer. Any roads would cut across existing elk migration patterns and could give hunters too great an advantage over the elk, deer, and moose population. The outstanding wildlife that exists in the area is already threatened by the close human population.

Roadless areas in the Helena Forest alone are being developed at the rate of 13,000 acres per year. We've got a 27-year supply! Let's protect this one.

WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?

Become one of many. Public input will decide this issue. Write to:

Helena National Forest
301 S. Park, Drawer 10014
Federal Building, Room 328
Helena, MT 59626

Gov. Ted Schwinden
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59620

Sen. John Melcher
23 S. Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601

Sen. Max Baucus
62 S. Last Chance Gulch
Helena, MT 59601

Rep. Pat Williams
1233 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Ron Marlenee
128 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Tell them you want to see the Lazyman area given a special designation that will preserve its hunting, roadless recreation, and scenic value for us and for future generations. It is a precious resource that should not be wasted for an admittedly miniscule amount of lumber that will cost the taxpayer dearly.

Support the Black Mountain Wildlife Association. It was organized to work specifically on this issue, and it is doing work none of us could do alone. For information, contact:

BLACK MOUNTAIN WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

Doug Powell, Coordinator
1714 Hauser Blvd.
Helena, MT 59601
449-8134

MONTANA WILDLANDS COALITION
P.O. Box 820 • East Helena, Montana 59635

PROPOSED MOUNT BALDY WILDERNESS

Helena National Forest
Recommended Net Wilderness Acres: 14,600

I. Description:

Only 30 miles southeast of Helena, Mount Baldy and Mount Edith tower nearly 5000 feet above the Missouri River Valley, stretching to elevations of over 9400 feet. Even to the causual viewer from Helena or Townsend, their pointed, rock-crowned summits are known to catch the first snows of autumn and hold the last snowbanks of summer. Eleven other mountain ranges are visible from these majestic peaks. To the north of the rugged ridge that connects their summits lies the spectacular Birch Creek Basin, a glacial cirque filled with over 12 gem-like lakes. Near the center of this basin "The Needles", a series of jagged limestone spires, rise above a fragile alpine meadow.

II. Wilderness Attributes:

The Mount Baldy area provides a unique "above the timberline" hiking experience for local residents. Boy Scout troops from White Sulfur Springs and Townsend have utilized this wild area for decades as a place where young people can enjoy their first wilderness experience. The Birch Creek Basin is extensively used for walk-in fishing and hunting. Healthy populations of cutthroat trout inhabit the four largest lakes in the basin. Dense stands of small diameter lodgepole and limber pine provide irreplaceable security and escape cover for deer, black bear and elk. "The Needles" area is known for its heavy concentration of elk "wallows". A thriving population of mountain goats inhabits the high ridges between Mount Baldy and Mount Edith. The opportunities for solitude are outstanding, even when the area is receiving heavy non-motorized recreational use, due to the numerous ridges, stream valleys and rugged topography throughout the area.

III. Resource Values:

The oil and gas potential for the proposed Mount Baldy Wilderness has been rated as low. Mineral potential is similarly low, with no operating mines near the area. The average growth rate for trees in this high country is very slow, only 28 cubic feet/acre/year according to the Forest Service. This annual volume of new tree growth/acre could easily fit into the trunk of your car!

Present motorized recreational use is almost non-existent in the area. This is fortunate, since the presence of even one combustible engine can disrupt the solitude within the entirety of this relatively small, fragile area. In contrast to any resource extraction potential, the non-motorized recreation potential is very high. Literally hundreds of hikers per month utilize the area in the summer. Spring and autumn cross country skiing is also becoming increasingly popular, although skiers must be cautious of avalanche hazard.

IV. Boundary Rationale:

The Mount Baldy roadless area has been reduced in size by more than 1200 acres since 1979 due to road construction associated with the Granger/North Fork timber sale. The Forest Service is tentatively planning another timber sale in the Twin Sisters area near Duck Creek Pass within the next year. Because of the vanishing size of this unique, irreplaceable high country conservationists are urging that all of the remaining 14,600 roadless acres within this beautiful roadless area be preserved as an enduring part of our wilderness heritage. This includes approximately 1000 acres of private land in the southwest corner that should be included in the boundary by means of a land exchange between the Forest Service and the private landowner. Wilderness designation is only fitting for the wildlands surrounding Mount Edith and Mount Baldy, the stately "flagships of the Big Belt Mtns".

V. What You Can Do

*Write a personal letter to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation. Tell them that you support the "Alternative W" proposal for the protection of 2 million acres of national forest wilderness in Montana.

*Mention in your letter specific areas that you may be familiar with, such as Mount Baldy.

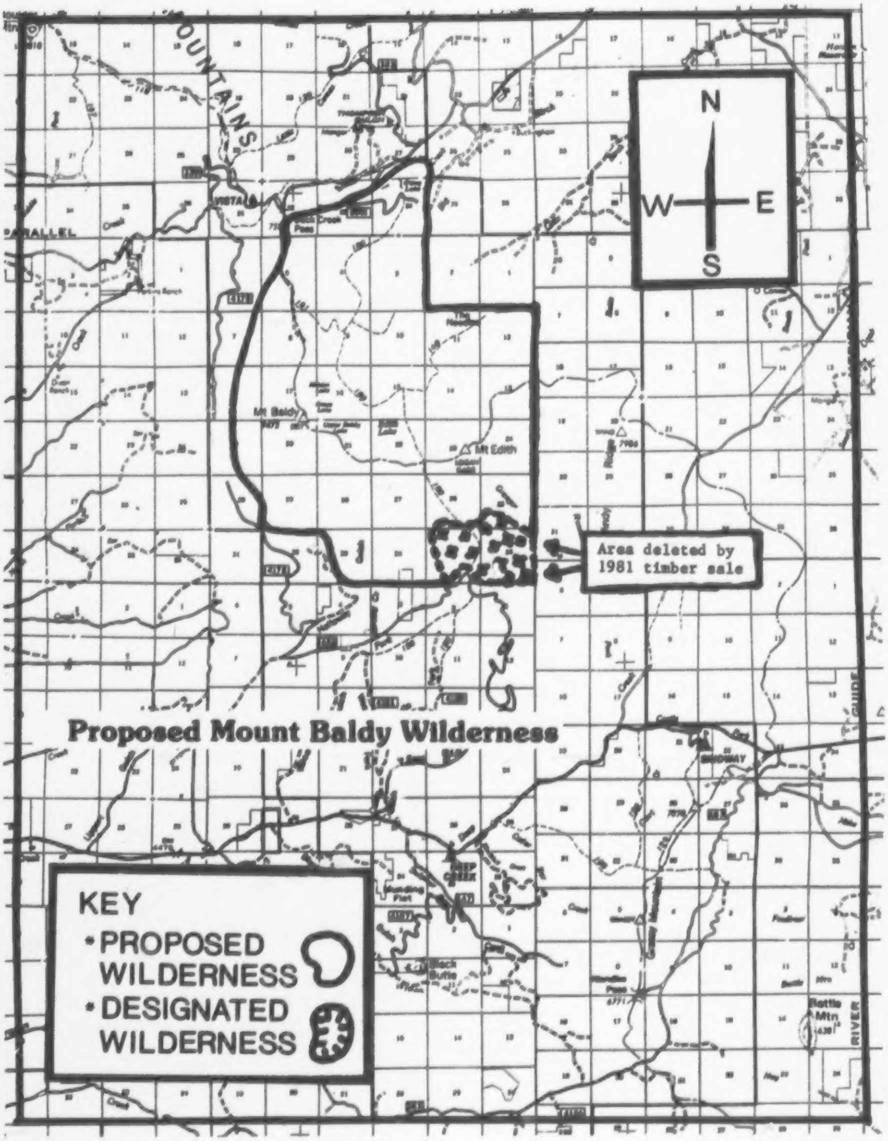
Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2644

Senator Max Baucus
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Toll Free 1-800-332-6106
or (202) 224-2651

Please see the other side for a map of the proposed boundary.

Rep. Pat Williams
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Toll Free 1-800-332-6177
or (202) 225-8553

Rep. Ron Marlenee
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Toll Free 1-800-332-5965
or (202) 225-1555


MOUNTAINS
PARALLEL
VISTA
Mt Baldy
Mt Edith
The Needles
SHOWDOWN
Black Butte
Battle Mtn
GUIDE
RIVER
N
W
E
S
KEY
• PROPOSED WILDERNESS
• DESIGNATED WILDERNESS

Area deleted by 1981 timber sale

Proposed Mount Baldy Wilderness

MONTANA WILDLANDS COALITION

P.O. Box 820 • East Helena, Montana 59635

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS

Helena National Forest
1983 Net Roadless Acres: 9,974
Recommended Net Wilderness Acres: 9974

I. Description

Rising along the Missouri River only 15 miles north of Helena stand the massive limestone cliffs that Lewis and Clark appropriately named the "Gates of the Mountain". Recognizing the scenic, historical, recreational and wildlife values of this area, the U.S. Congress nearly two decades ago established a small wilderness area in the Big Belt mountains just to the east of the actual "gates". The proposed additions lie to the wast and the south of this existing wilderness, bordering the Missouri River and an established U.S. Forest Service road.

II. Wilderness Attributes

The southern portion of the additions is critical winter range for elk, turkey, whitetail deer and mule deer. The western additions, of course, contain the actual cliffs that so impressed Lewis and Clark. The entire area is characterized by rugged cliffs and canyons, including the well-known Refrigerator Canyon and the steep-walled Big Log Canyon. Both of these canyons as well as the Hunters Gulch trailhead are used extensively by hikers seeking early season treks. Hunters also heavily use these trailheads, all of which are presently out of the designated wilderness area.

III. Resource Values

The majority of the additions have been classified as non-commercial forest. The area's hardrock mining potential is low, while oil and gas potential is moderate. The non-motorized recreation potential, however, is very high as is the area's value for wildlife security and winter range. All of these non-consumptive resource uses continue to increase every year.

IV. Boundary Rational

The arbitrary section line boundaries of the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness have always inhibited proper management of the area. By expanding the area and using the Missouri River and existing roads as new boundaries, management of the area will become more logical and defensible.

How can you help? Please, turn the page. We have a suggestion.

V. What you can do

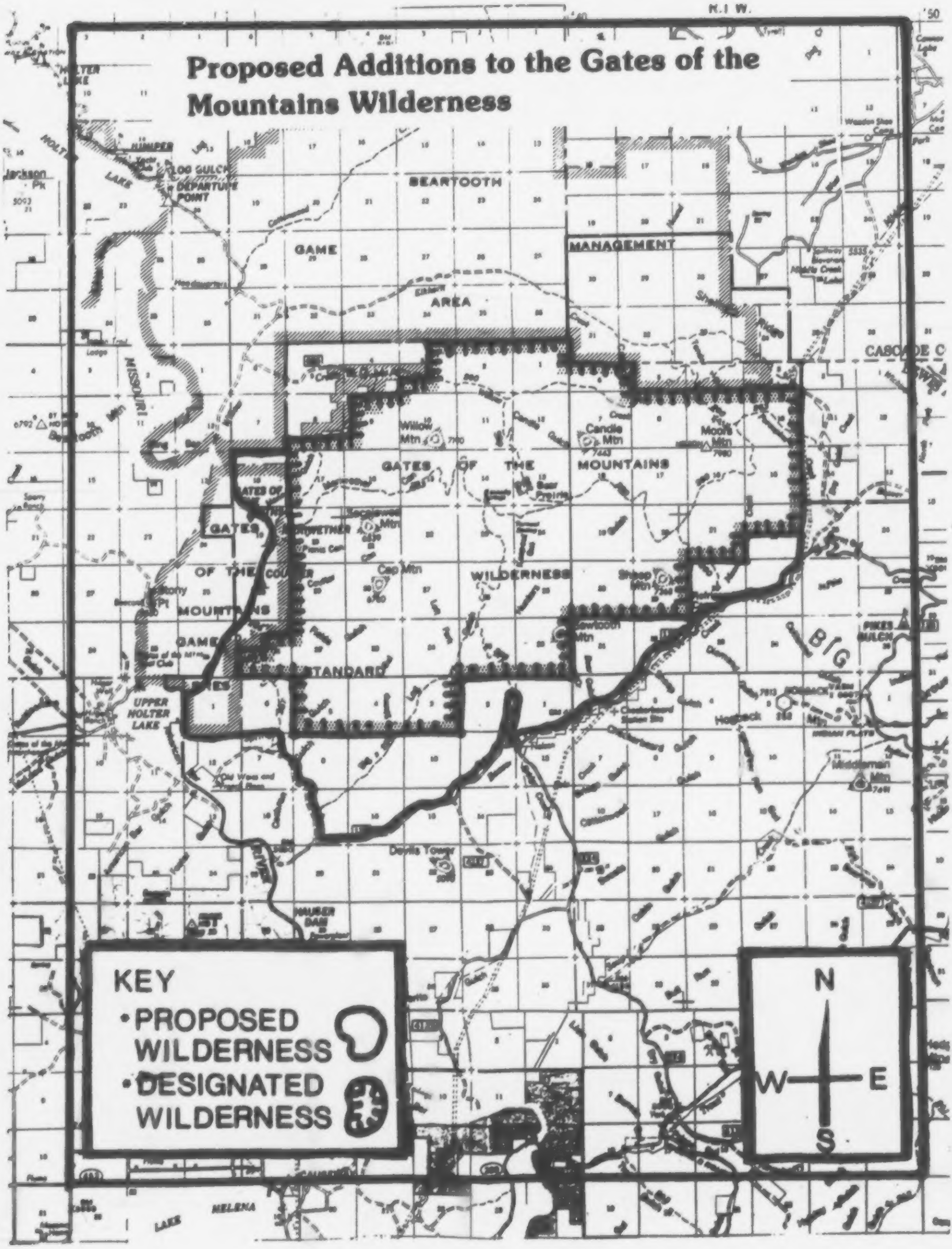
- Write a personal letter to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation. Tell them you support the "Alternative W" proposal for 2 million acres of national forest wilderness in Montana.
- Mention in your letter specific areas that you may be familiar with, such as the one described in this fact sheet.

Senator John Melcher
1123 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-2644

Senator Max Baucus
1107 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
Toll Free 1-800-332-6106,
or (202)224-2651

Rep. Pat Williams
1233 Longworth Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Toll Free 1-800-332-6177,
or (202) 225-8553

Rep. Ron Marlenee
409 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Toll Free 1-800-332-5965,
or (202)225-1555


Proposed Additions to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness
BEARTOOTH
GAME
MANAGEMENT
AREA
GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS
WILDERNESS
GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS GAME
STANDARD
HOLTER LAKE
UPPER HOLTER LAKE
MISSOURI
RIVER
HAUSER DAM
CASCADE C
BIG
Willow Mtn
Candle Mtn
Moors Mtn
Cap Mtn
Sheep Mtn
Sawtooth Mtn
Devils Tower
Middleman Mtn
Hogback
LAKE HELENA
KEY
•PROPOSED WILDERNESS
•DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
N
W
E
S

MONTANA WILDLANDS COALITION
P.O. Box 820 • East Helena, Montana 59635

Proposed Electric Peak-Blackfoot Meadows Wilderness

Helena and Deer Lodge National Forests
Recommended Net Wilderness Acres: 46,028

I. Description:
The proposed Blackfoot Meadows/Electric Peak Wilderness is located approximately 30 air miles SW of Helena and 25 air miles north of Butte. Nearly 13 miles of the Continental Divide are within its borders. Electric Peak, Thunderbolt and Bison Mtns tower to elevations over 8000 feet along this natural watershed boundary that divides the Continent. On the Columbia River side of the Divide, numerous small streams, springs and groundwater seeps join together to form the fragile and beautiful Blackfoot Meadows, "land of 1000 beaver ponds". This popular nonmotorized recreation area is only a 55 minute drive and two hour hike from downtown Helena. On the Missouri River side, Cottonwood Lake is the most prominent landmark, nestled at the base of an alpine meadow that stretches for nearly a mile towards the rugged slopes of Electric Peak.

II. Wilderness Attributes:
This area presently provides excellent opportunities for solitude and wildlife alike. Deer, black bear and several hundred elk extensively use the area for summer range and as escape cover from the expanding road network that accesses virtually all of the national forest lands that surround the Blackfoot Meadows/Electric Peak area. Grizzly bear also occasionally use this country; a large boar was mistakenly shot in the area in the early 1980's. The increasingly rare and vulnerable Franklin's grouse also inhabits sheltered spots near the forest's edge along the Blackfoot Meadows and the meadows above Cottonwood Lake. The area provides one of the few remaining places along a length of nearly 150 miles of the Continental Divide where anglers can enjoy walk-in stream fishing for pan-size and larger cutthroat and brook trout. The area's dense canopy of small-diameter lodgepole pine and its numerous ridges, stream valleys and other diversified topographic features, shield visitors from the view of others, adding to the area's value for solitude.

III. Resource Values:

Ranging in elevation from 5700 to 8600 feet, and with its dominant tree stands being dense concentrations of small, "dog hair" lodgepole and limber pine, the Blackfoot Meadows/Electric Peak area is not a prime location to grow trees. In fact, the Forest Service estimates that only 0.79 MBF of timber per year could be produced on the entire 27,478 acres comprising the Helena Forest-portion--a figure that is less than 5% of what can be produced on a similar-sized forest in the Pacific Northwest. The Forest Service also rates the entire area as low for oil and gas potential. The hardrock mining potential is low to moderate. Grazing use is low. It is important to note that wilderness designation will not change present levels of grazing. Compared to the above resource extraction potential the wildlife and nonmotorized recreation values for this special area are quite high and do not require the taxpayer to provide funds for capital improvements, such as road construction and maintenance. Left alone, this wild area will continue to increase in value for outfitting and other nonmotorized recreation industries and continue to provide security and a natural setting for wildlife.

IV. Boundary Rationale:

The Blackfoot Meadows/Electric Peak roadless area has been reduced in size by nearly 6000 acres since 1979 because of development activities associated with the Spotted Dog and Upper Hat Creek timber sales. Within the next four years additional timber sales are being considered for the remaining portion north of Kading Campground (Hat Creek), for areas near Bison Mountain and for the Indian Creek area. Conservationists are willing to consider adjusting the proposed wilderness boundary to accommodate at least part of these developments, but only if the cost/benefit of these proposed timber sales in hard dollars exceeds the non-development values. The non-development values must, of course, be evaluated over the long term to include benefits not only to present day Montanans, but also to those yet unborn who will be living at a time when there will be much less wild country. Unless the Forest Service can provide this kind of justification, the boundary for this proposed wilderness should follow the existing roadless boundary.

What can you do to help save this wild area? Please turn the page. We have a suggestion.

V. What You Can Do

- Write a personal letter to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation. Tell them you support the "Alternative W" proposal for 2 million acres of national forest wilderness in Montana.
- Mention in your letter specific areas that you may be familiar with, such as the one described in this fact sheet.

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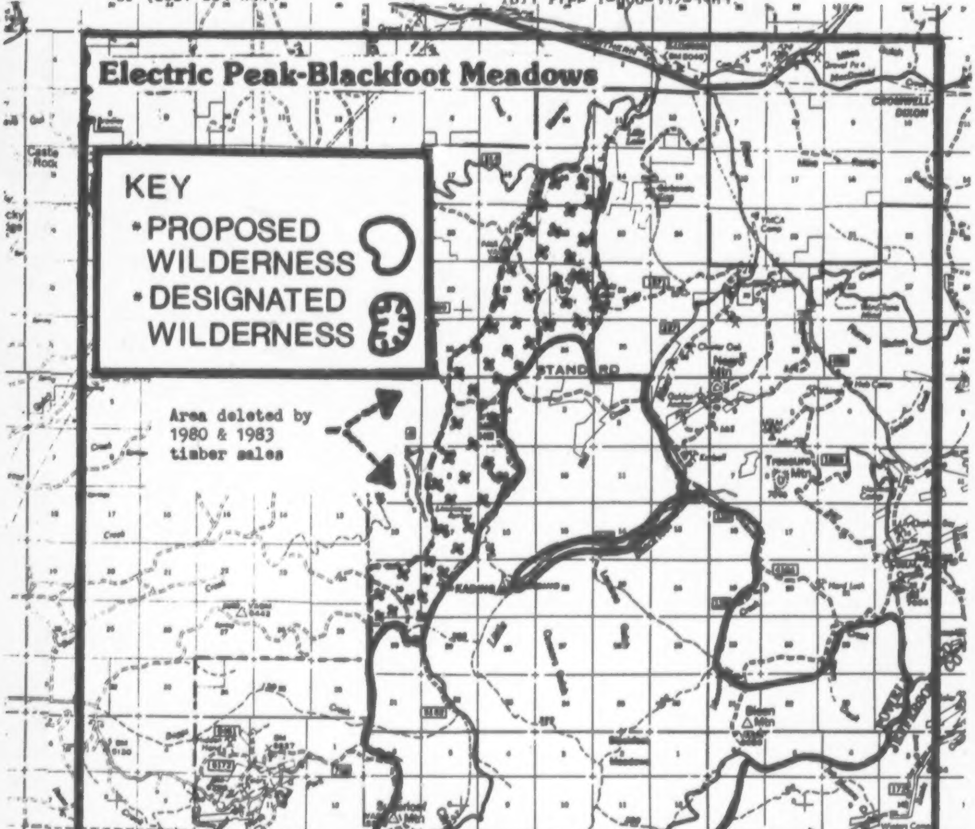
Electric Peak-Blackfoot Meadows
KEY
• PROPOSED WILDERNESS
• DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
Area deleted by 1980 & 1983 timber sales
STANDARD
Treasure Mtn
Blackfoot Meadows
Electric
Thunderbolt Mtn
Black Mtn
DIVIDE
DEERLODGE
N
W
E
S

MONTANA WILDLANDS COALITION
P.O. Box 820 • East Helena, Montana 59635

Proposed Rocky Mountain Front Additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness

Falls Creek-Silver King

Lewis and Clark Forest and Helena Forest,
Lewis and Clark County
82,000 acres

I. Description

The Falls Creek-Silver King Proposed Addition abuts the eastern boundary of the Scapegoat Wilderness for 30 miles along the southern reaches of the Rocky Mountain Front 15 miles southeast of the town of Augusta. The area includes the headwaters of Petty Creek, Elk Creek, Falls Creek and portions of the Dearborn River east of the Continental Divide and the valleys of another Falls Creek and Byrnes Creek west of the divide. Steamboat Mountain (8289 feet) and Caribou Peak (8773 feet) are major landmarks within the area.

II. Wilderness Qualities

In 1978, Falls Creek received the highest wilderness attribute rating possible for a roadless area from the Forest Service, becoming one of less than a dozen areas nationwide to do so. Both the Dearborn River and Welcome Pass in the area are heavily used access points for the Scapegoat Wilderness. Wilderness designation for the region would protect the spectacular alpine country along the north side of Steamboat Mountain, the large, open valley of the Dearborn River through Devils Glen, and the undeveloped watershed of Falls Creek and eleven miles of the Continental Divide.

The area is considered to be important habitat for both grizzly bears and bighorn sheep.

III. Resource Values

Half of the area is under lease for speculative natural gas development with many of the leases being "no surface occupancy" due to the rugged nature of the country. One small timber sale is planned for the Petty Creek drainage, while no hardrock mineral resources are present. Wildlife and recreational resources in the area are considered to be very high.

IV. Boundary Rationale

The western boundary of the Falls Creek area is adjacent to the Scapegoat Wilderness while the eastern boundary abuts BLM and some private land. The proposed boundary excludes roaded areas in the valleys of Elk Creek and Alice Creek.

V. What You Can Do

- Write a personal letter to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation. Tell them you support the "Alternative W" proposal for 2 million acres of national forest wilderness in Montana.
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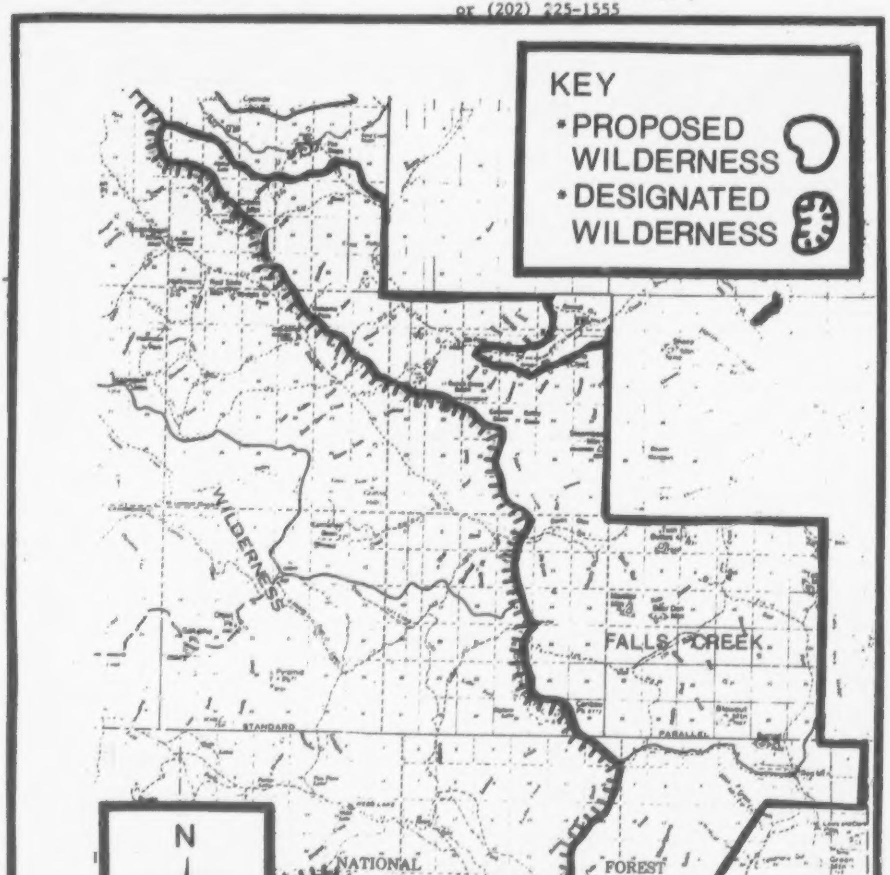
KEY
*PROPOSED WILDERNESS
*DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
WILDERNESS
FALLS CREEK
STANDARD
PARALLEL
NATIONAL
FOREST
N
W
E
S

MONTANA WILDLANDS COALITION

P.O. Box 820 • East Helena, Montana 59635

PROPOSED CAMAS CREEK WILDERNESS

Helena National Forest
1983 Net Roadless Acres: 29,510
Recommended Net Wilderness Acres: 29,510

I. Description

The Camas Creek area is about 33 miles east of Helena and straddles the Big Belt Divide. Two main peaks, Boulder Mountain and Boulder Baldy, are nearly 9,000 feet in elevation. The area itself is a fascinating jumble of open parks, cliffs, rock slides, lakes, small streams, and steep-sided forested valleys. On the eastern slopes large, open grasslands are separated by steep valleys. As the rugged Camas Creek drainage opens up, it reveals Upper and Lower Camas Lakes fringed by lodgepole pine and Douglas fir. The western slope is broken, and interspersed with conifers and rock slides. Along the western boundary is a corridor of open, sloping grassland. The Belt Divide itself contains alpine cirques and two gem-like Boulder Lakes. The lakes are faceted with rocks, cliffs, and a border of pine, spruce and fir. As the divide flattens in places, fairly wide expanses of white bark pine appear.

USFS #118 crosses through the heart of this roadless area, affording spectacular views of the back country on either side.

II. Wilderness Attributes

People from the Townsend and Helena areas frequently sojourn in the lakes for fishing, hiking, and camping. Wilderness hunters use it heavily during the hunting season. It is primarily accessible from Duck Creek Pass. There are few signs of motorized travel or other activities. A few "ad hoc" 4-wheel drive trails wander about on the fringe and disappear like game trails. They could be easily obliterated by weather and time.

III. Resource Values

A well-known mining geologist says "There ought to be a mother lode in there some place," but acknowledged that in 140 years of intense exploration, only a few pockets of gold have been discovered, and few other minerals of consequence. Oil company people would be interested in checking out the area "some time in the future" so the priorities appear to be low. Apparently mineral and petroleum values are unpretentious.

There are a few areas of "good" eastside timber (8 - 10,000 mbf/acre) but roads to reach these would be extensive and expensive, over difficult terrain, around rock slides, and destructive of other resources. Most of the timber is poor by eastside standards. Consequently, a lot of money can be made here just be leaving it uncut.
On the other hand, this area has high value for watershed (20 - 40" of precipitation a year), a fine elk herd, mule deer, grouse, black bear, and a variety of other wildlife. There is good trout fishing in the lakes. Changing scenery, beautiful panoramas and a diversity of wildlife make this area highly attractive for recreation.

IV. Boundary Rationale

In 1979, there were 38,700 acres of potential wilderness in the Camas Creek area. Now it has been nibbled away to 29,510 acres. The Irish Area in the north end has been separated from the core area because of a timber sale in Slough Gulch. This sale, along with the Camas Gypsy timber sale have further reduced the area by 2050 acres. The remainder, however, forms a solid block of National Forest land except about 1,500 acres of private land on the western edge.

Given the rapid rate of seemingly uncontrolled development in an area with marginal extractable resource potential, all of what now remains of this irreplaceable recreational and wildlife area should be managed for its best public benefit --- wilderness.

(over, for map and what you can do)

V. What you can do

- Write a personal letter to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation. Tell them you support the "Alternative W" proposal for 2 million acres of national forest wilderness in Montana.
- Mention in your letter specific areas that you may be familiar with, such as the one described in this fact sheet.

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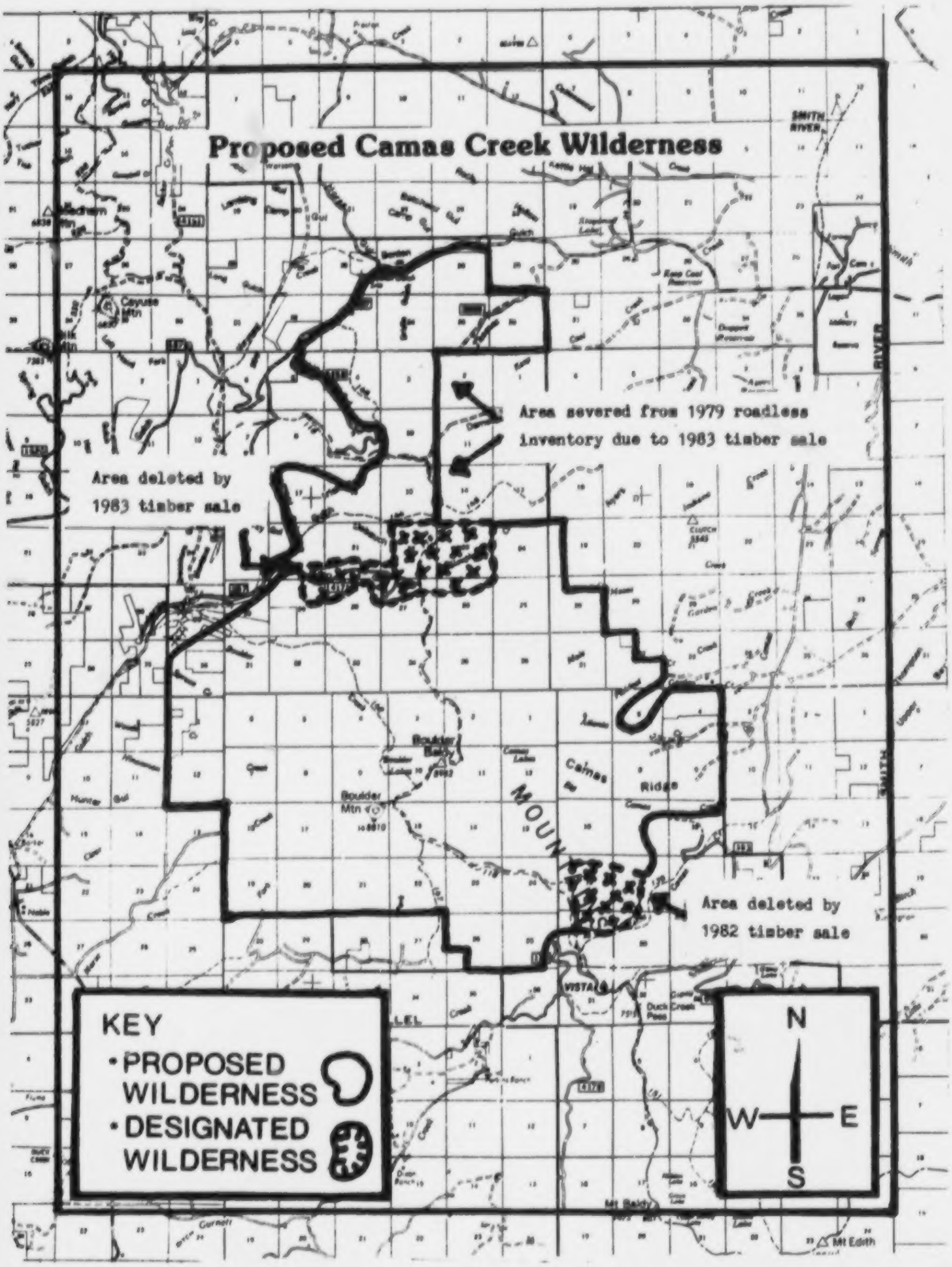
Proposed Camas Creek Wilderness
Area severed from 1979 roadless inventory due to 1983 timber sale
Area deleted by 1983 timber sale
Area deleted by 1982 timber sale
SMITH RIVER
Cayuse Mtn
Boulder Baldy
Boulder Mtn
Camas Ridge
MOUN
VISTA
Duck Creek Pass
Mt Baldy
Mt Edith
KEY
• PROPOSED WILDERNESS
• DESIGNATED WILDERNESS
N
W
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MONTANA WILDLANDS COALITION
P.O. Box 820 • East Helena, Montana 59635

PROPOSED NEVADA MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

Helena National Forest
1983 Net Roadless Acres: 50,371
Recommended Net Wilderness Acres: 50371

I. Description

The proposed Nevada Mountain Wilderness lies between Helena and Lincoln along some 15 miles of the major spine of the Continental Divide. The area's namesake, Nevada Mountain, and its sister, Black Mountain, each tower over 8000 feet in the southern portion of the roadless area and are some of the more prominent geographical features. From these vantage points the mountains of the Lincoln-Scapegoat, Mission, Flint Creek and Elkhorn Ranges are dramatically visible. In addition to the Continental Divide, the area includes the major divide between Nevada and Poorman Creeks, the site of the historic Gould-Helmville wagontrail. Numerous scenic rocky cirques at the heads of drainages and a 2200 acre forest fire burn, providing excellent wildlife forage, characterize the south and east boundaries of the area. The portion on the west slope of the divide consists of densely covered, steep-sided finger ridges laced with numerous parks on the south-facing slopes which combine to provide ideal big game habitat.

II. Wilderness Attributes

The Nevada Mountain area is the largest remaining roadless area on the Helena National Forest and as such is large enough to offer considerable wilderness quality solitude. Most of the country is free from the scars of man's past activities and retains its natural appearance. The areas wilderness qualities include a virtual menagerie of wildlife. Up to 1000 elk and nearly as many mule and whitetail deer utilize the area for security during summer and fall because of adjacent heavy logging, roading and other development on public and private lands. The Beartrap Burn, the wildblown Continental Divide and lower elevation southern exposures provide winter range for some of the deer and elk. Black bear, wolverine, cougar and blue and ruffed grouse are permanent residents, while grizzlies are occasionally sighted. Wolves have also reportedly been sighted. Wilderness quality hunting is readily provided to hundreds of visitors each year without the prerequisite of pack animals because of the area's rather drawn out shape and numerous access points on the perimeter.

III. Resource Values

Ranging in elevation from 5500 to 8340 feet and with its dominant tree stands being stagnated lodgepole pine thickets, sparse areas of subalpine fir and white bark pine, and scattered pockets of old growth fir, the Nevada Mountain area is not a prime candidate for inclusion in the Helena National Forest timber base. In fact, in the tentative preferred alternative of the Helena Forest Plan, some 77 percent of the area is classified "non-timber". Although some mineral potential exists primarily in the form of placer deposits, recent activities have been minimal, small-scale and generally on the periphery. The Forest Service rated the oil and gas potential as "low" in 1979. Grazing use also is low. On the other hand, because of its heavy snow accumulations and the presence of numerous streams originating along the divide, the roadless area is an important supplier of pure water for downstream users in the Little Prickly Pear Creek, Nevada Creek and Blackfoot River drainages. Combined with the aforementioned wildlife and nonmotorized recreation values, the resource extraction potential is low in comparison. Left alone, this wild area will become increasingly valuable for wildlife security and nonmotorized recreational use.

IV. Boundary Rationale

The Nevada Mountain roadless area has been reduced in size by nearly 8000 acres since 1979 because of development activities associated with the Madison-Willow and Deadman timber sales. Additional timber sales are being considered for the flanks of Black Mountain in the southern portion of the area, the upper Nevada Creek drainage proper and the northern boundary country adjacent to Poorman Creek. In light of the already extensively roaded, logged and otherwise developed country on all sides of the existing roadless area, the boundary for this proposed wilderness should follow the original RARE II boundary with adjustments for the area committed to development under the Madison-Willow and Deadman timber sales. Given the rate at which the roadless Nevada Mountain "island" is shrinking in size, we must act now to insure the protection of this unique and wild remnant.

How can you help? Please turn the page. We have a suggestion.

V. What you can do

- Write a personal letter to each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation. Tell them you support the "Alternative W" proposal for 2 million acres of national forest wilderness in Montana.
- Mention in your letter specific areas that you may be familiar with, such as the one described in this fact sheet.

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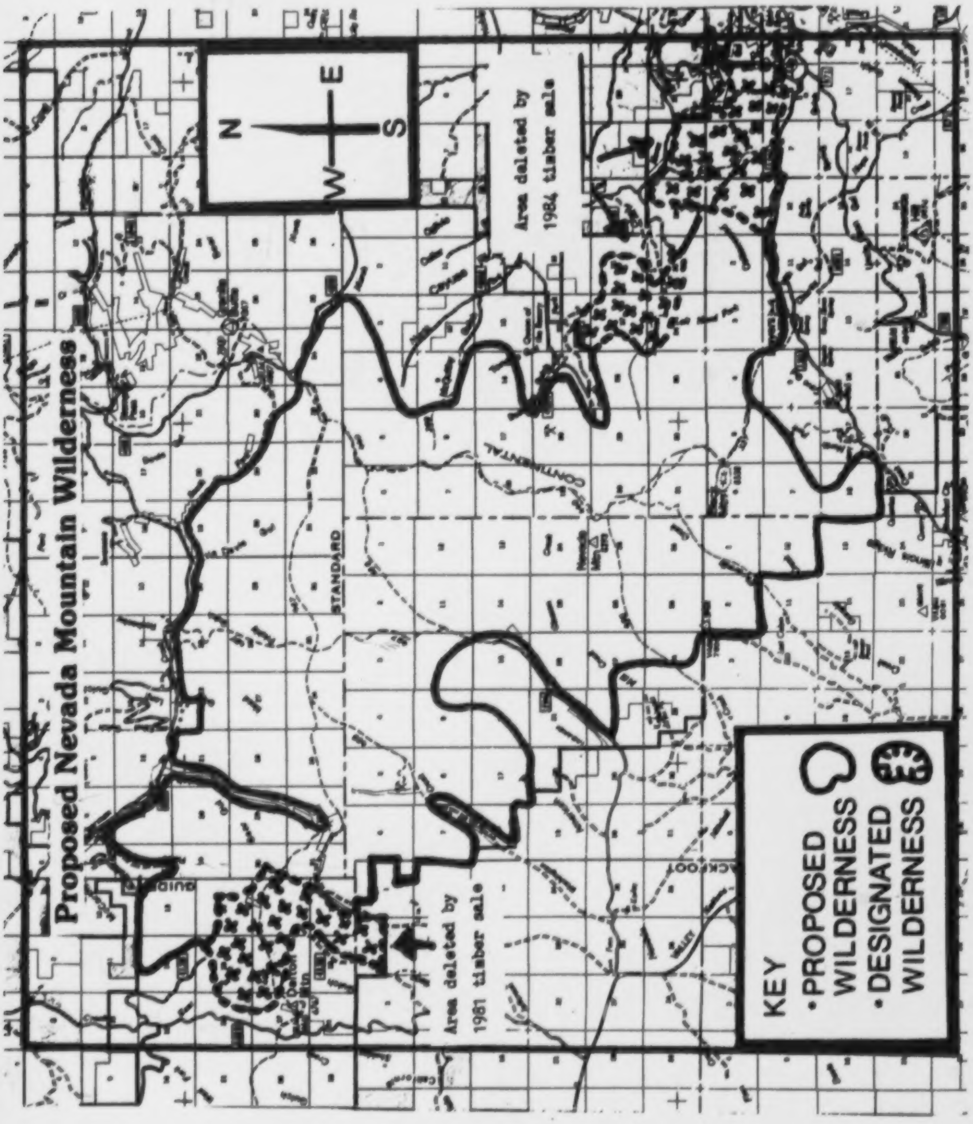

Proposed Nevada Mountain Wilderness
N
E
S
W
Area deleted by 1984 timber sale
Area deleted by 1981 timber sale
CONTINENTAL
STANDARD
KEY
• PROPOSED WILDERNESS
• DESIGNATED WILDERNESS

Senator **Melcher**. Thank you. Daryle, I think it was you who raised two points that I would like to comment on. One is the Pryor Mountain area. Of course, it does not escape us that part of that is not forest land; it is BLM land, but since both of them recommended it for wilderness, we thought it best to include the two. Remember, if we pass a bill at some point of adjacent areas and do not include part of that area because it is managed by a different agency, we may not get back to passing another bill very quickly. So it is wise to leave the two together. As a matter of fact, it is an attempt to work it out so that both units will be managed by the same agency, rather than having a split jurisdiction.

I think from the same point I would like to comment on, I think the testimony that you have provided, and frankly others have commented on and sent us letters and in discussions with them too, on the Crazies is very pertinent. It is true, I believe and I think I am correct on this, that the four of us thought that the land ownership pattern there made it very difficult to do anything with, since it was a lot of it checkerboard.

Is that being corrected? I am asking you. I think you are much more familiar with the Crazies than I am.

Mr. **Murphy**. It is certainly true that the ownership pattern is a problem, but it is my understanding that it is not an insoluble problem. I would like to see some effort put into trying to resolve it.

It is also my understanding that in the core area of the wilderness proposal, there are only four landowners, at least one of which has indicated a willingness to exchange and not outright opposition from the others. I can find more specific information on that if you like.

Senator **Melcher**. We will want it a lot more specific. It is an area that has no prejudice at all from the delegation. It is my recollection that we did not do anything with it because we were unaware of when the land swaps could be. So if it shows up in the released areas, it is not a deliberate intent to downgrade the quality and characteristics of the proposal you have just outlined.

Senator Baucus.

Senator **Baucus**. I am wondering, Dan, if you could tell me about the famous road, Elk Creek Road. It seems to have come up in the last several weeks. How much of a siltation problem will that road cause, in your judgment? I have seen photographs of the road and bales of hay and so forth ostensibly designed to reduce siltation, to cut back siltation. Can you give me a sense in your best judgment of how much siltation that road might cause?

Mr. **Heinz**. I am not a hydrologist and I did not consult one.

Senator **Baucus**. Do you know the road?

Mr. **Heinz**. I have seen the road. I would be surprised if that road alone, if that is the only road that goes in there, if it would cause any significant siltation problem. It is accumulative impacts of the sale program that I described to you that could be a very serious problem.

Senator **Baucus**. You were here, I assume, when the Chief of the Forest Service, Mr. Peterson, said about 95 percent of the use of that road will be for recreation over the long haul. Is that in your judgment accurate?

Mr. HEINZ. I think recreation purposes could be served by simply getting the people to the forest boundary on public access and then creating a trailhead and we would have the recreational use that that road is serving now. People will drive all the way to the end of a road when it is there, of course. But I certainly do not get the sense from the sportsmen groups that I am representing that they feel that that whole road is necessary. In fact, they supported the closure of the last 2 miles.

Senator BAUCUS. You are saying the sportsmen supported the closure of the last 2 miles of that road?

Mr. HEINZ. Yes.

Senator BAUCUS. What about others? Or do you know? You are just representing sportsmen generally who use the area.

Mr. HEINZ. Yes, that is my role today.

Senator BAUCUS. What about other recreational use? Would there be much other recreational use, do you think, on that road?

Mr. HEINZ. I think it is safe to say that all of the recreation purposes would be served simply by providing access to the forest boundary across the private lands. At the time that was constructed, they were closed, but they are not now, but they were.

There are old trail systems in there that would serve snowmobile and cross-country skiing use and certainly it is important to the hunting in that area that there not be additional roads constructed.

Senator BAUCUS. There is kind of a two-track effort here, trying to resolve this. One track obviously is each specific area in different parts of the State, that is you have to look to each area on the merits. Southwestern Montana has certain characteristics. Flathead Forest has different characteristics and the East Front has different characteristics, and so forth. I encourage each of you, as you have done this morning to address those specific areas. And it is up to us to draw those boundaries and try to make some sense of it.

However, there is another track and that is just sort of a feel around the State among the people you represent as to how much should be wilderness, how much should not, and how to generally resolve this. That is in a sense kind of balance it around the State.

Do you advocate no bill or to the degree you can speak for the people you represent, do you think no bill is preferable to the bill that was introduced?

Mr. HEINZ. No bill is preferable to the release and some of the special management that was included in the bill. No bill is certainly preferential to wide open release of the Pioneers or that sort of situation.

Senator BAUCUS. Can others of you answer that same question, whether no bill is preferable to this bill. What I am trying to drive at is speaking generally, where are you? What is your bottom line and where are you going?

Mr. MURPHY. If I can answer that question, Senator Baucus, from the standpoint of the Sierra Club, no bill is preferable to the bill as it stands.

Senator BAUCUS. Why is that?

Mr. MURPHY. Primarily because it fails to protect such a large proportion of the land which really is suitable for wilderness. It is

747,000 acres roughly out of 6.6 to 7 million acres of roadless lands in Montana.

Senator **Baucus**. What if it had 1 million acres?

Mr. **Murphy**. I do not know. It would depend——

Senator **Baucus**. That is possible though?

Mr. **Murphy**. Yes. It is not how many acres; it is what is protected.

Senator **Baucus**. I understand, but still if the additional 250,000 acres were protected, then it is possible that you personally may support it?

Mr. **Murphy**. I personally cannot say that, no. I cannot make that blanket statement that I would. It is not acreage.

Senator **Baucus**. Well, to some of you it is, because we are talking about individual acres here. So it is to a large degree acreage. So how many more acres?

Mr. **Murphy**. Am I negotiating here? I would probably find something in the area of 1.6 million acres acceptable, depending on where they are.

Senator **Baucus**. Does anyone else on the panel have a view on that?

Mr. **Curtis**. I would like to comment, Senator Baucus. I think I would have to speak with two hats, one as the president of the Bob Marshall Alliance, and, second, as a member of the steering committee for the Montana Wildlands Coalition. In wearing the first hat, I would have to say that I think as far as the alliance is concerned, unless the bill could provide for protection of the invaluable ecosystem of the Bob Marshall complex, the alliance would find it unsatisfactory and unacceptable.

We have here an opportunity to protect the unique system in this country, in the lower 48 States, at least. We have unparalleled opportunity here to protect a wildlife ecosystem. The lands we would ask for to be added to the wilderness complex there are already wilderness, in fact. All we are asking is that they be given protection.

In point of facts those lands would have been protected in the original drawing of boundaries for those areas, had people at that time had the understanding and appreciation of the ecosystem concept that now exists and there is testimony on record backed by Dr. John Creighead from the July 9 hearing from a year ago last month.

So unless that can be provided for, I think the Bob Marshall Alliance would find a bill unacceptable.

So far as the Wildlands Coalition is concerned, I think, my understanding there, the feeling is that the points that make the current bill unacceptable, and they would again say unless that bill could be substantially amended and modified, it would be unacceptable, the points there are those that have been mentioned elsewhere this morning. That is inclusion of the S-393 areas, the release of large areas that we believe still deserve consideration for wilderness, if there could somehow be some reservation of areas that need further discussion and further study, then we might be willing to accept it.

Senator **Baucus**. We have a bill here. You heard the timber industry say that maybe a few more acres in order to get sufficiency and you say you want a few more acres too, maybe we are on the right path here.

Mr. **Curtis**. Let me comment that I think the bill has some very good features and I think it might be possible to proceed with the good features of the bill and hold other areas still in reserve for further study. I would hope that that possibility might at least be given consideration.

Senator **Baucus**. Thank you very much.

Senator **Melcher**. Thank you all very much.

Our next panel includes Van Elmore, Anadarko Production Co.; John Sweet, Atlantic Richfield Co.; Jeffrey Kelley, Amoco Production Co.; John Himebaugh, Phillips Oil Co.; Richard Hughes, Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association; Darwin Van De Graaff, Montana Petroleum Association.

We will start with Van Elmore.

STATEMENT OF VAN ELMORE, SENIOR EXPLORATION LANDMAN, ANADARKO PRODUCTION CO., ENGLEWOOD, CO

Mr. **Elmore**. Senator Melcher, members of the subcommittee, my name is Van Elmore. I am a senior exploration landman for Anadarko Production Co.

In our testimony at the Great Falls field hearing last summer, Anadarko presented its opposition to the creation of any wilderness, or other forms, along the Front Range of the Lewis and Clark National Forest, until such time as the oil and gas potential of those lands had been explored and produced. This is still our position. In particular, the Renshaw, Silver King, and Deep Creek Areas may well be looking up oil and gas reserves forever.

Today, however, I will comment on the current draft of Senate bill 2850. In general, Anadarko supports the portion of the bill which would legislate the sufficiency of the RARE II study. The release language of the bill is objectionable because it is not permanent. Every 10 to 15 years all the lands studied and found lacking in wilderness characteristics will be studied again and again by the surface agency. Due to these repetitive reviews many of the lands will be managed as de facto wilderness which will also prohibit oil and gas exploration.

Anadarko has also some specific problems with the bill. As part of a large exploration effort which we have in the area, we have acquired oil and gas lease M-52673 in township 9 north, range 19 west.

To the best of our ability, from the maps we received, there is an overlap with the Renshaw Special Management Area and our oil and gas lease. That overlap is attempted to be depicted on the attached map.

With our lease in apparent overlap and also in such close proximity to the special management area, the absence of the protective language that we see in wilderness creation gives us some concern. Specifically the wilderness creations do protect valid existing rights. Anadarko hereby requests that this language be added to the special management creation.

This Federal lease was acquired in good faith for a significant bonus with the expectation that Anadarko would be able to explore it for the term of the lease and to produce it under the lease provisions. I think this certainly represents a valid existing right that should be protected.

In addition, the wilderness creations are protected from bumper zones or protective perimeters. We ask that this language be added to the special management creation. It seems appropriate that users of the national forest lands adjoining the less restrictive management areas should be afforded at least the same protection as users who adjoin the more restrictive wilderness areas.

In closing, I would like to point out that the oil industry has proven its ability to explore and produce in concert with many different ecosystems. In addition, the environmentally protective oil and gas lease stipulations, such as those attached to this statement and to the lease that we discuss here, insure the proper method, location, and timing of exploration and production activities.

The stipulations which the Forest Service interprets and applies are guided by NEPA, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act as amended by the Forest Management Act and by many other pieces of legislation. Prior to seismic operations, during the application for permit to drill process and at every other step in exploration and operations activities the surface agency interprets and applies these stipulations to protect the specific environmental concerns of the lands involved.

A summary of these is as follows: Cultural and paleontological resources, esthetics, erosion control, flood plains, grouse strutting grounds, cut slope failure, sheep winter range, elk winter range, elk calving areas, big game migration routes, sheep lambing areas, protection of threatened or endangered species—in this case grizzly bear and gray wolf—as well as in general coordination with the surface agency. I think with these protections in mind, the oil and gas exploration along the Front Range of Montana should not be discouraged. I think it should be encouraged.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our position.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Elmore follows:]

TESTIMONY

OF

ANADARKO PRODUCTION COMPANY

PRESENTED BY VAN ELMORE

ON

S.2850

MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

AND NATURAL RESOURCES

UNITED STATES SENATE

AUGUST 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Van Elmore. I am a Senior Exploration Landman for Anadarko Production Company.

In our testimony at the Great Falls field hearings last summer, Anadarko presented its opposition to the creation of any wilderness, or other forms of oil and gas foreclosure, along the Front Range in the Lewis and Clark National Forest until the oil and gas potential of those lands had been explored and produced. This is still our position. In particular, the Renshaw, Silver King and Deep Creek areas may well be locking up oil and gas reserves forever.

Today however, I will comment on the current draft of Senate Bill S.2850. In general, Anadarko supports the portion of the bill which would legislate the sufficiency of the RARE II study. The release language of the bill is objectionable because it is not permanent. Every 10 to 15 years all the lands studied and found lacking in wilderness characteristics will be studied again and again by the surface agency. Due to these repetitive reviews many of the lands will be managed as de-facto wilderness which will prohibit oil and gas exploration.

Anadarko also has some specific problems with the bill. As part of a large exploration effort, which involves approximately 50,000 acres of oil and gas leasehold, 1500 miles of seismic and many millions of dollars, Anadarko Production Company has purchased Federal Oil and Gas Lease M-52673 for a very substantial bonus price. This lease is located in Sections 1,2,12,13,24,25 in Township 9 North, Range 19 West, Lewis and Clark County, Montana and contains 3,228 acres. We will be acquiring additional seismic data on this lease this summer.

To the best of our ability it does appear that a small portion of the Renshaw Special Management Area overlaps our lease. It is difficult to ascertain the exact extent of the overlap from the maps provided with Senate Bill S.2850. This overlap is depicted on the attached maps.

With our lease in apparent overlap with and in such close proximity to the special management area, the absence of protections for activities on or near a special management area, in comparison with protections provided in the bill for activities on or near wilderness areas, causes us concern.

The creation of the Renshaw Special Management Area does not have any language, as the wilderness creations do, which protects "[V]alid existing rights....". Anadarko hereby requests that this language be added to the special management creations. This issued Federal lease was acquired in good faith, with the expectation that Anadarko would be able to explore it for the term of the lease and to produce it under the lease provisions. This certainly represents a valid existing right that should be protected.

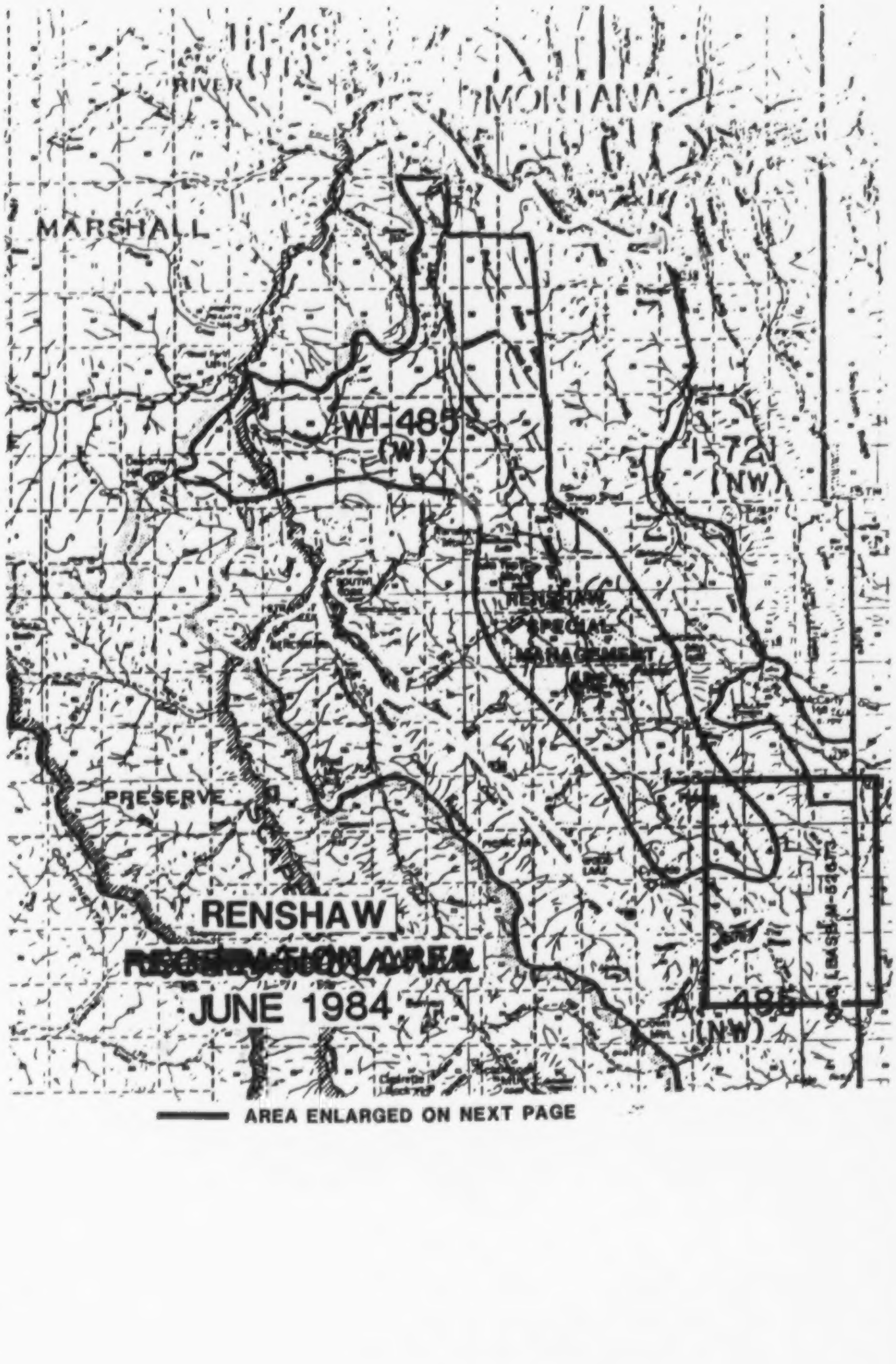
In addition, the bill makes clear in Section 7 that in the creation of wilderness Congress does not intend to create "[B]uffer zones...." or, "[P]rotective perimeters...." around each wilderness. Section 7 continues, " The fact that non-wilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within the wilderness shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area." The absence of this language in the creation of the special management areas is even more problematic when compared with the presence of this language in the wilderness portion of the bill.

Anadarko requests that this language, which protects nearby activities, and eliminates buffer zones be added to the special management areas. It seems appropriate that users of National Forest lands adjoining the less restrictive management areas be afforded at least the same protections as the users who adjoin the more restrictive wilderness areas .

In closing, I would like to point out that the oil industry has proven its ability to explore and produce in concert with many different ecosystems. In addition, the environmentally protective oil and gas lease stipulations, such as those attached to this statement and to the lease we discuss here, insure the proper method, location and timing of exploration and production activities. The stipulations which the Forest Service interprets and applies are guided by NEPA, by The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act as amended by the Forest Management Act and by many other pieces of legislation. Prior to seismic operations, during the application for permit to drill process and at every other step in exploration and operations activities the surface agency interprets and applies these stipulations to protect the specific environmental concerns of the lands involved.

A summary of the oil and gas lease stipulations attached to this lease follows: cultural and paleontological resources, esthetics, erosion control, flood plains, grouse strutting grounds, cut slope failure, sheep winter range, elk winter range, elk calving areas, big game migration routes, sheep lambing areas, protection of threatened or endangered species-grizzly bear and gray wolf and general coordination with the surface agency. With these protections in mind, there is no reason why oil and gas exploration should be discouraged along the Front Range of Montana.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our position.


RIVER
MONTANA
MARSHALL
WI-485
(W)
I-72
(NW)
RENSHAW
SPECIAL
MANAGEMENT
AREA
PRESERVE
RENSHAW
RECREATION AREA
JUNE 1984
485
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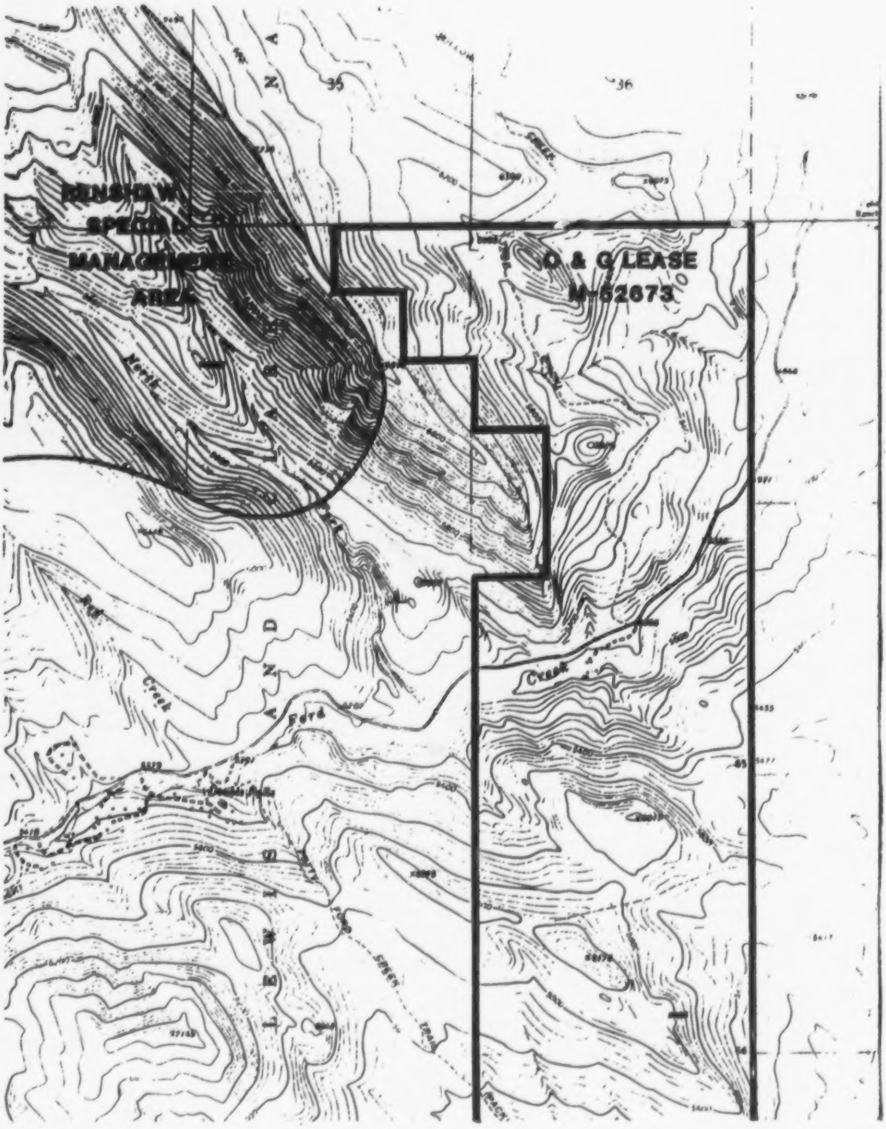
AREA ENLARGED ON NEXT PAGE


HENSHAW SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA
O & G LEASE M-52673
35
36
North
Creek
Ford Creek

Form 3109-3
(June 1971)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

STIPULATION FOR LANDS UNDER JURISDICTION OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE*

The lands embraced in this lease or permit being under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lessee or permittee hereby agrees:

(1) To conduct all operations authorized by this lease or permit with due regard for good land management, not to cut or destroy timber without first obtaining permission from the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, and to pay for all such timber cut or destroyed at the rates prescribed by such representative; to avoid unnecessary damage to improvements, timber, crops, or other cover; unless otherwise authorized by the Secretary of Agriculture, not to drill any well, carry on operations, make excavations, construct tunnels, drill, or otherwise disturb the surface of the lands within 200 feet of any building standing on the lands and whenever required, in writing, by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture to fence or fill all sump holes, ditches, and other excavations, remove or cover all debris, and so far as reasonably possible, restore the surface of the lands to their former condition, including the removal of structures as and if required, and when required by such representative to bury all pipelines below plow depth.

(2) To do all in his power to prevent and suppress forest, brush, or grass fires on the lands and in their vicinity, and to require his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors or subcontractors to do likewise. Unless prevented by circumstances over which he has no control, the lessee or permittee shall place his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors and subcontractors employed on the lands at the disposal of any authorized officer of the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of fighting forest, brush, or grass fires on or originating on the lands or on adjacent areas or caused by the negligence of the lessee or permittee or his employees, contractors, subcontractors and employees of contractors and subcontractors, with the understanding that payment for such services shall be made at rates to be determined by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, which rates shall not be less than the current rates of pay prevailing in the vicinity for services of a similar character: *Provided*, that if the lessee or permittee, his employees, contractors, subcontractors, or employees of contractors or subcontractors, caused or could have prevented the origin or spread of said fire or fires, no payment shall be made for services so rendered.

During periods of serious fire danger to forest, brush, or grass, as may be specified by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lessee or permittee shall prohibit smoking and the building of camp and lunch fires by his employees, contractors, subcontractors, and employees of contractors or subcontractors within the area involved except at established camps, and shall enforce this prohibitine by all means within his power: *Provided*, that the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture may designate safe places where, after all inflammable material has been cleared away, campfires may be built for the purpose of heating lunches and where, at the option of the lessee or permittee, smoking may be permitted.

The lessee or permittee shall not burn rubbish, trash, or other inflammable materials *except* with the consent of the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture and shall not use explosives in such a manner as to scatter inflammable materials on the surface of the lands during the forest, brush, or grass fire season, *except* as authorized to do so or on areas approved by such representative.

The lessee or permittee shall build or construct such fire lines or do such clearing on the lands as the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture decides is essential for forest, brush, and grass fire prevention which is or may be necessitated by the exercise of the privileges authorized by this lease or permit, and shall maintain such fire tools at his headquarters or at the appropriate location on the lands as are deemed necessary by such representative.

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* This form of stipulation may be used in connection with leases and permits issued under the Acts of February 25, 1920, as amended (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*); August 7, 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351 *et seq.*); February 7, 1927, as amended (30 U.S.C. 281 *et seq.*); April 17, 1926, as amended (30 U.S.C. 271 *et seq.*); June 28, 1944 (58 Stat. 483–485); September 1, 1949 (30 U.S.C. 192c); June 30, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 508b); or under the authority of any of the Acts cited in Section 402 of the President's Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946 (5 U.S.C. 133y–16, Note).

(3) In the location, design, construction, and maintenance of all authorized works, buildings, plants, waterways, roads, telegraph or telephone lines, pipelines, reservoirs, tanks, pumping stations, or other structures or clearance, the lessee or permittee shall do all things reasonably necessary to prevent or reduce to the fullest extent scarring and erosion of the lands, pollution of the water resources and any damage to the watershed. Where construction, operation, or maintenance of any of the facilities on or connected with this lease or permit causes damage to the watershed or pollution of the water resources, the lessee or permittee agrees to repair such damage and to take such corrective measures to prevent further pollution or damage to the watershed as are deemed necessary by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture.

(4) If in the opinion of the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, the lands are valuable for watershed protection, the lessee or permittee shall provide for control of surface runoff and return the affected area to as productive condition as practicable.

(5) To pay the lessor or permitter or his tenant or the surface owner or his tenant, as the case may be, for any and all damage to or destruction of property caused by the lessee's or permittee's operations hereunder; to save and hold the lessor or permitter or the surface owner or their tenants harmless from all damage or claims for damage to persons or property resulting from the lessee's or permittee's operations under this lease or permit.

(6) To recognize existing uses and commitments, in the form of Department of Agriculture grazing, timber cutting, and special use permits, water developments, ditch, road, trail, pipeline, telephone line, and fence rights-of-way and other similar improvements, and to conduct his operations so as to interfere as little as possible with the rights and privileges granted by these permits or with other existing uses.

(7) To install and maintain cattle guards to prevent the passage of livestock in any openings made in fences by the lessee or permittee or his contractors to provide access to the lands covered by this lease or permit for automotive and other equipment.

(8) If lessee or permittee shall construct any camp on the lands, such camp shall be located at a place approved by the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, and such representative shall have authority to require that such camp be kept in a neat and sanitary condition.

(9) To comply with all federally-approved rules and regulations of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare governing the emission of pollutants into the air from activities which are embraced in this lease or permit.

(10) To comply with all the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture governing the national forests or other lands under his jurisdiction which are embraced in this lease or permit.

(11) Unless otherwise authorized, prior to the beginning of operations to appoint and maintain at all times during the term of this lease or permit a local agent upon whom may be served written orders or notices respecting matters contained in this stipulation, and to inform the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, in writing, of the name and address of such agent. If a substitute agent is appointed, the lessee or permittee shall immediately so inform the said representative.

(12) To address all matters relating to this stipulation

to District Ranger
Rocky Mountain Ranger District
at Lewis & Clark National Forest
Box 340
Choteau, MT 59422

, who is the authorized representative of the Secretary of Agriculture, or to such other representative as may from time to time, be designated, provided that such designation shall be in writing and be delivered to the lessee or permittee or his agent.

____

(Signature of Lessee)

GPO [illegible]

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SURFACE DISTURBANCE STIPULATIONS

District Supervisor
U.S. Geological Survey
P. O. Box 2550
Billings, MT 59103

Phone: (406) 657-6367

Management Agency *(name)*	Address *(include zip code)*
District Ranger Rocky Mountain Ranger District Lewis & Clark National Forest	Box 340 Choteau, MT 59422

1. Notwithstanding any provision of this lease to the contrary, any drilling, construction, or other operation on the leased lands that will disturb the surface thereof or otherwise affect the environment, hereinafter called "surface disturbing operation," conducted by lessee shall be subject, as set forth in this stipulation, to prior approval of such operation by the Area Oil and Gas Supervisor in consultation with appropriate surface management agency and to such reasonable conditions, not inconsistent with the purposes for which this lease is issued, as the Supervisor may require to protect the surface of the leased lands and the environment.

2. Prior to entry upon the land or the disturbance of the surface thereof for drilling or other purposes, lessee shall submit for approval two (2) copies of a map and explanation of the nature of the anticipated activity and surface disturbance to the District Engineer or Area Oil and Gas Supervisor, as appropriate, and will also furnish the appropriate surface management agency named above, with a copy of such map and explanation.

An environmental analysis will be made by the Geological Survey in consultation with the appropriate surface management agency for the purpose of assuring proper protection of the surface, the natural resources, the environment, existing improvements, and for assuring timely reclamation of disturbed lands.

3. Upon completion of said environmental analysis, the District Engineer or Area Oil and Gas Supervisor, as appropriate, shall notify lessee of the conditions, if any, to which the proposed surface disturbing operations will be subject.

Said conditions may relate to any of the following:

- (a) Location of drilling or other exploratory or developmental operations or the manner in which they are to be conducted;
- (b) Types of vehicles that may be used and areas in which they may be used; and
- (c) Manner or location in which improvements such as roads, buildings, pipelines, or other improvements are to be constructed.

Form 3109-5 (August 1973)

GPO [illegible]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

M 52673
(Serial Number)

OIL AND GAS LEASE STIPULATIONS

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES — The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased lands are examined to determine if cultural resources are present and to specify mitigation measures. Prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities on the lands covered by this lease, the lessee or operator, unless notified to the contrary by the authorized officer of the surface management agency, shall:

1. Engage the services of a qualified cultural resource specialist acceptable to the Federal surface management agency to conduct an intensive inventory for evidence of cultural resource values;
2. Submit a report acceptable to the authorized officer of the surface management agency and the District Engineer, Geological Survey; and
3. Implement mitigation measures required by the surface management agency to preserve or avoid destruction of cultural resource values. Mitigation may include relocation of proposed facilities, testing and salvage or other protective measures. All costs of the inventory and mitigation will be borne by the lessee or operator, and all data and materials salvaged will remain under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Government as appropriate.

The lessee or operator shall immediately bring to the attention of the District Engineer, Geological Survey, or the authorized officer of the Federal surface management agency any cultural or paleontological resources or any other objects of scientific interest discovered as a result of surface operations under this lease, and shall leave such discoveries intact until directed to proceed by the District Engineer, Geological Survey.

ENDANGERED OR THREATENED SPECIES — The Federal surface management agency is responsible for assuring that the leased land is examined prior to undertaking any surface-disturbing activities to determine effects upon any plant or animal species, listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened, or their habitats. The findings of this examination may result in some restrictions to the operator's plans or even disallow use and occupancy that would be in violation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 by detrimentally affecting endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

The lessee/operator may, unless notified by the authorized officer of the surface management agency that the examination is not necessary, conduct the examination on the leased lands at his discretion and cost. This examination must be done by or under the supervision of a qualified resources specialist approved by the surface management agency. An acceptable report must be provided to the surface management agency identifying the anticipated effects of a proposed action on endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

ESTHETICS — To maintain esthetic values, all surface-disturbing activities, semipermanent and permanent facilities may require special design including location, painting and camouflage to blend with the natural surroundings and meet the intent of the visual quality objectives of the Federal surface management agency.

EROSION CONTROL — Surface disturbing activities may be prohibited during muddy and/or wet soil periods. This limitation does not apply to operation and maintenance of producing wells using authorized roads.

CONTROLLED OR LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION — This stipulation may be modified by special stipulations which are hereto attached or when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, Geological Survey, with concurrence of the Federal surface management agency. Distances and/or time periods may be made less restrictive depending on the actual onground conditions. The prospective lessee should contact the Federal surface management agency for more specific locations and information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

The lessee/operator is given notice that the lands within this lease may include special areas and that such areas may contain special values, may be needed for special purposes, or may require special attention to prevent damage to surface and/or other resources. Possible special areas are identified below. Any surface use or occupancy within such special areas will be strictly controlled or, if absolutely necessary, excluded. Use or occupancy will be restricted only when the Geological Survey and/or the surface management agency demonstrates the restriction necessary for the protection of such special areas and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operations of producing oil and gas wells.

After the Federal surface management agency has been advised of specific proposed surface use or occupancy on the leased lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the Agency will furnish further data on any special areas which may include:

100 feet from the edge of the rights-of-way from highways, designated county roads and appropriate federally-owned or controlled roads and recreation trails.

500 feet, or when necessary, within the 25-year flood plain from reservoirs, lakes, and ponds and intermittent, ephemeral or small perennial streams; 1,000 feet, or when necessary, within the 100-year flood plain from larger perennial streams, rivers, and domestic water supplies.

500 feet from grouse strutting grounds. Special care to avoid nesting areas associated with strutting grounds will be necessary during the period from March 1 to June 30. One-fourth mile from identified essential habitat of state and federal sensitive species. Crucial wildlife winter ranges during the period from December 1 to May 15, and in elk calving areas, during the period from May 1 to June 30.

300 feet from occupied buildings, developed recreational areas, undeveloped recreational areas receiving concentrated public use and sites eligible for or designated as National Register sites.

Seasonal road closures, roads for special uses, specified roads during heavy traffic periods and on areas having restrictive off road vehicle designations.

On slopes over 30 percent, or 20 percent on extremely erodable or slumping soils.

April 2/1982
Date

Lessee's Signature

MT-3109-1 (December 1981)
Formerly MSO 3100-47c

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
222 North 32nd Street
Billings, Montana 59107

ADDITION TO LEASE TERMS

1. Due to the enactment of Public Law 97-78, signed by the President November 16, 1981, this lease contains an additional term specifying the rights and obligations of an oil and gas lease issued subsequent to that Act. This term merely specifies what the impact of passage of that Act has done to a Federal oil and gas lease issued on or after November 16, 1981. The additional lease term is as follows:

   Under the provisions of Public Law 97-78, this lease includes all deposits of non-gaseous hydrocarbon substances other than coal, oil shale, or gilsonite (including all vein-type solid hydrocarbons). Development by methods not conventionally used for oil and gas extraction such as fire, flooding and including surface mining will require the lessee to submit a plan of operations and will be subject to regulations governing development by such methods when those rules are issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the USGS, and the rules or procedures of the surface managing agency, if other than BLM. Development may proceed only if the plan of operations is approved.

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2. This lease is issued pursuant and subject to the terms and provisions of Section 302 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7152) and to the regulations of the Secretary of Energy promulgated thereunder relating to the:

   (1) fostering of competition for Federal leases (including but not limited to, prohibition on bidding for development rights by certain types of joint ventures);

   (2) implementation of alternative bidding systems authorized for the award of Federal leases;

   (3) establishment of diligence requirements for operations conducted on Federal leases (including, but not limited to, procedures relating to the granting or ordering by the Secretary of the Interior of suspension of operations or production as they relate to such requirements);

   (4) setting rates of production for Federal leases; and

   (5) specifying the procedures, terms, and conditions for the acquisition and disposition of Federal royalty interests taken in kind.

Page 1 of 4

[illegible]ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INT[illegible]OR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 52673

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lea

(X) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease: (6)

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: portions of N½NE¼, portions of NW¼SW¼, portions of SE¼SW¼
Sec. 2: portions of NW¼NE¼
Sec. 12: portions of E½NW¼
Sec. 24: portions of SW¼SW¼
Sec. 25: portions of W½NW¼, portions of SW¼, portions of W½SE¼

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a) Landtype 182 and 202; slopes greater than 60%
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lea

( ) No __________ will be allowed within: ( )

____ feet of __________ located within:

____ feet of __________ located within:

____ feet of __________ located within

____ feet of __________ located within:

This area contains approximately _____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lea

(X) (a) In order to (~~minimize~~) (protect) sheep winter range (31)
occupancy will be allowed only during: 5/1 to 11/30

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) __________
__________ will be allowed only during: __________

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: W½E½, E½W½, W½NW¼, NW¼SW¼
Sec. 2: N½NE¼, SE¼NE¼
Sec. 12: portions of E½E½, W½E½, E½W½, SW¼NW¼, W½SW¼
(b)

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lea

( ) The __________ ( )
will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

Apr 2/82
Date

Signature

MSO 3100-55 (January 1981)

Page 2 of 4

[illegible]D STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE IN[illegible]R
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M 52673

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lease

( ) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease: ( )
(a)

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a)
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lease

( ) No ______ will be allowed within: ( )
______ feet of ______ located within:

______ feet of ______ located within:

______ feet of ______ located within

______ feet of ______ located within:

This area contains approximately ______ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lea

(X) (a) In order to (~~minimize~~) (protect) elk winter range (62)
occupancy will be allowed only during: 5/1 to 12/1

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) ______
______ will be allowed only during: ______

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 1: E½, NW¼, N½SW¼, SE¼SW¼
Sec. 2: N½NE¼, SE¼NE¼
Sec. 12: E½, E½NW¼, SW¼NW¼, SW¼
(b) Sec. 13: E½, NW¼, E½SW¼, portions of NW¼SW¼
Sec. 24: N½NE¼, portions of S½NE¼, portions of NE¼NW¼

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lea

( ) The ______ ( )
will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

april 2/82
Date

Signature
MSO 3100-55 (January 1981)

Page 3 of 4

[illegible]ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INT[illegible]OR
Bureau of Land Management

Serial No. M.52673

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Geological Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Le

( ) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease: ( )

(a)

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a)
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Le

( ) No ______ will be allowed within: ( )

____ feet of ______ located within:

____ feet of ______ located within:

____ feet of ______ located within

____ feet of ______ located within:

This area contains approximately ____ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Le

(X) (a) In order to ~~(minimize)~~ (protect) elk calving areas (14)
occupancy will be allowed only during: 7/1 to 4/30

(b) In order to ~~(minimize)~~ (protect) Big Game Migration route (11)
occupancy will be allowed only during: 1/15 to 4/15
6/1 to 12/1

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 13: portions of E½, portions of S½NW¼, SW¼
Sec. 24: portions of NW¼NE¼, portions of N½NW¼

(b) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 13: portions of NE¼, portions of SE¼NW¼, portions of SW¼, portions of NW¼SE¼
Sec. 24: portions of S½NE¼, portions of NW¼, portions of NE¼SW¼, portions of N½SE¼

Road Use Stipulation

% of Le

( ) The ______ ( )
will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

April 2/82
Date

Signature

MSO 3100-55 (January 1981)

[illegible]D STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE IN[illegible]OR
Bureau of Land Management
Serial No. [illegible]52673[illegible]

Oil & Gas Lease Stipulations

The following stipulations may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, U.S. Ge[illegible]cal Survey with the concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

No Surface Occupancy Stipulation

% of Lease

( ) No occupancy or other activity on the surface of the following described lands is allowed under this lease: ( )

(a)

(b)

Reasons for this restriction are:
(a)
(b)

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (by location)

% of Lease

( ) No ____________ will be allowed within: ( )

____ feet of ____________ located within:

____ feet of ____________ located within:

____ feet of ____________ located within

____ feet of ____________ located within:

This area contains approximately ______ total acres

Surface Occupancy Restriction Stipulation (timing)

% of Lea

(X) (a) In order to ~~(minimize)~~ (protect) sheep lambing areas (<1)
occupancy will be allowed only during: 7/1 to 4/14

(b) In order to (minimize) (protect) ____________
____________ will be allowed only during: ____________

This does not apply to maintenance and operation of producing wells and facilities. Lands within the leased area to which this stipulation applies are described as follows:

(a) T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M.
Sec. 2: portions of NW¼NE¼, portions of SE¼NE¼

(b)

Road Use Stipulation

% of Lea

( ) The ____________ ( )
will not be used as an access road for activities on this lease except as follows:

April 2/82
Date

Signature
MSO 3100-35 (January 1981)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

(OG Sim. Serial No.)

M 52673
(Serial No.)

LIMITED SURFACE USE STIPULATION

The lessee is given notice that all or portions of the lease area contain special values, are needed for special purposes, or require special attention to prevent damage to surface resources. Any surface use or occupancy within such areas will be strictly controlled. Use or occupancy will be authorized only when the lessee/operator demonstrates that the area is essential for operations and when the lessee/operator submits a surface use and operations plan, which is satisfactory to the Geological Survey and the Federal Surface Management Agency (SMA), for the protection of these special values and existing or planned uses. Appropriate modifications to the imposed restrictions will be made for the maintenance and operation of producing oil and gas wells. After the SMA has been advised of the proposed surface use or occupancy on those lands, and on request of the lessee/operator, the SMA will furnish further data on such areas, which now include but are not limited to:

T.19N., R.9W., P.M.M. (6%)

Sec. 1: portions of W½NE¼, portions of NW¼,
portions of N½SW¼, portions of SE¼SW¼
Sec. 24: portions of S½NW¼

Reason for Restriction: Landtype 23A, moderate potential for cutslope failure hazard, Appendix D, Environmental Assessment Oil and Gas Leasing Non-Wilderness Lands

Duration of Restriction: (designate months)

All year

Prior to acceptance of this stipulation, the prospective lessee is encouraged to contact the SMA for further information regarding the restrictive nature of this stipulation.

[illegible]
Date

Signature

MSO 3100-60 (October 1980)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

M 52673
(Serial No.)

ACTIVITY COORDINATION STIPULATION

This stipulation may be modified when specifically approved in writing by the District Engineer, Geological Survey with concurrence of the authorized officer of the surface management agency.

(X) This lease includes lands within occupied threatened and endangered species habitat, grizzly bear and gray wolf which has resource values sensitive to high levels of activity. In order to minumize impacts to these resources, special conditions, such as unitization prior to approval of operations, and/or other limitations to spread surface disturbance activities over time and space may be required prior to approval and commencement of any operations on the lease.

% of Lease
(100)

April 2/82
Date

Signature

MSO 3100-61 (October 1980)

STATEMENT OF JOHN SWEET, MANAGER, EXPLORATION SERVICES, ATLANTIC RICHFIELD CO., DENVER, CO

Mr. SWEET. Mr. Chairman, my name is John Sweet. I am manager of exploration services for Arco in Denver. As you know the overthrust of most of the Western United States is taking on a very important exploration aspect for oil and gas and minerals. That is brought on by the 2-trillion-cubic-foot major field at Pincher Creek in Canada and also the Blackleaf field in Montana.

Last year, this year and next year Arco will spend about $18 million for leases, seismic and drilling, in this general area and we are currently active with four exploratory wells. This activity at the moment predominantly falls on either side of the Deep Creek, Renshaw, and Silver King proposed wilderness areas.

We learned yesterday that the present outlines are a step in the right direction and better than we originally had thought they would be. But we still believe it is a mistake to add to the already existing 1,500,000 acres of wilderness before they are at least evaluated with a seismograph for oil and gas potential.

USGS in their publication indicate that this area has medium oil potential and high gas potential. Our sister company, Anaconda Minerals, likewise believes that the mineral potential for gold, copper, silver, molybdenum, and tungsten is too great to justify putting off limits the East Pioneer and the Flint Range areas.

In all, 3,100,000 acres of highly perspective oil and gas land in Montana has already been put off limits and we are concerned that more and more is being put off limits all of the time before better information on the oil and gas potential is known about this land.

Mr. Chairman, we frequently hear the allusion to the boom and bust cycle. One of the gentleman mentioned it earlier today. If one takes this concern, boom and bust, at face value and removes the boom, we are left with the bust. I do not believe anybody has the right to impose that on any community.

Also, Mr. Chairman, I heard the gentleman from the Sierra Club say that land should be put in wilderness to protect it, and we would submit that there are many, many other ways to protect land without putting it off limits in a wilderness area.

We appreciate this opportunity to testify today before the committee.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Sweet follows:]

TESTIMONY OF

JOHN SWEET

ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY

BEFORE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ON THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT

AUGUST 9, 1984

TESTIMONY
ATLANTIC RICHFIELD COMPANY
ON
S. 2850
MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

My name is John Sweet. I am Manager, Exploration Services for ARCO Exploration Company. I am here today on behalf of Atlantic Richfield Company regarding extreme concerns our company has with several of the proposed wilderness designations contained in the Montana Wilderness Act.

Atlantic Richfield Company is primarily a domestic producer of energy and minerals. Therefore, we have a significant interest in the way the nation's public lands are managed. We recognize that wilderness lands are an important part of our national heritage. We do not believe, however, that lands containing energy and mineral resource potential should be designated wilderness without the understanding that possibly millions of dollars of revenue to the State and Federal Governments and substantial domestic supplies of energy and mineral resources will be foregone. Currently, approximately 60 percent of the public lands in the United States are either severely restricted or totally withdrawn from the mineral leasing and mining laws. As a result, we have serious reservations with the proposals in this legislation which would preclude such uses in areas containing high potential for energy and mineral resources.

The forces which caused certain lands to have outstanding wilderness values frequently are responsible for these same lands to have highly favorable geologic characteristics for energy and mineral resources. It is, therefore, essential that careful determinations are made as to which resource values should receive priority consideration.

One of our primary areas of concern is the area known as the Overthrust Belt which ranges from Alaska to Mexico. The portion of the overthrust belt known as the Disturbed Belt encompasses a narrow strip on the eastern edge of the Rocky Mountains. The Montana Disturbed Belt is an extension of the Foothills and Front range structure of the Cordileran thrust belt in southern Alberta, Canada. (Willis, 1902; Mudge and Earhart, 1980, Mudge 1983; USGS Circular 902-A-P). The Foothills region of Canada, contains three major gas fields (Waterton, Pincher Creek, and Lookout Butte) and has produced phenomenal amounts of natural gas. As pointed out in the above mentioned USGS Circular, there is the possibility of such accumulations in Montana, particularly within the Disturbed Belt. This belief is supported by the discovery of the Blackleaf Gas Field. Therefore, the energy industry, including Atlantic Richfield, has been conducting intense exploration of the Montana Disturbed Belt.

Atlantic Richfield has invested or is currently spending $7,500,000 on seismic work, $5,000,000 in exploratory drilling, and $5,000,000 for land acquisitions from Marias Pass to just south and east of the Silver King-Falls Creek proposed wilderness area. Seismic data that have been acquired along this trend, but a few miles southeast of the proposed wilderness areas, reveal large geologic structures. It can be anticipated that similar structures may also be found within these proposed wilderness areas. ARCO Exploration is currently drilling two wells in Lewis and Clark County along the trend and is conducting portable seismic operations in the Marias Pass area. We also have geological field crews working along the Rocky Mountain Front. This is our third year of exploration and we are just beginning to understand the complexity of this area. Silver King-Falls Creek, Deep Creek, and Renshaw have similar geologic features to the area we are currently involved in exploring. We are convinced it would be a serious mistake to withdraw such lands from energy and mineral exploration and possible development.

The Trout Creek proposed wilderness area is another area of critical concern. Trout Creek is located within the Montana Overthrust Belt and has significant potential for oil and gas reserves. Atlantic Richfield has lease applications actually abutting this area on the western boundary in Idaho. We oppose a wilderness designation.

The Anaconda Minerals Company, an operating division of

Atlantic Richfield Company, is currently involved in exploration activities in the East Pioneers and Flint Range proposed wilderness areas. If these areas are designated wilderness, further exploration for minerals, as well as any possible development, would be precluded.

The East Pioneers have excellent potential for gold, copper, molybdenum, and tungsten mineralization. Numerous prospects are located within the proposed wilderness. This area is currently experiencing a high level of exploration activity. It is likely that significant discoveries would be made if this area were to remain nonwilderness. Such discoveries would prove beneficial to the state's economy by providing a higher level of investment and employment.

The Flint Range proposed wilderness has excellent potential for economic deposits of gold, silver, tungsten, molybdenum, and other base metals. There are numerous prospects and mineral occurrences within the proposed boundaries. In addition, there is extensive past mining and prospecting activity north, west, and south of the area.

Anaconda does not have any claims within the area, although there are plans to conduct exploration activities within the area during 1984-85. Because of the excellent mineral potential, the Flint Range should remain available for mineral exploration and possible development activities.

We would like to point out to the Subcommittee that the Storm Lake proposed wilderness area includes approximately 2,550 acres of private property belonging to Anaconda. Our property is located in all or parts of Sections 19, 21, 23, 25, and 30, Township 4 North, Range 13 West. In 1981 the Forest Service adjusted the roadless area boundary to exclude 1,920 acres from recommended wilderness because of our private ownership as well as to place the proposed boundary on section lines. We were, therefore, surprised to see that the Montana delegation included our acreage in the proposed Storm Lake wilderness. It is highly likely that the inclusion of these private lands will pose a problem in managing the area for wilderness and we recommend that our acreage be deleted from the Montana Wilderness Act.

In conclusion, it is well known that the Overthrust Belt and Montana Disturbed Belt are believed to harbor considerable oil and gas reserves. In spite of this potential, the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great Bear areas were designated as wilderness and subsequently withdrawn from energy exploration, even though the Wilderness Act of 1964 provided for such activities. These areas alone account for almost 1.5 million acres of wilderness in the disturbed belt. Including, Glacier National Park and other designated wilderness, over 3.1 million acres are currently unavailable for oil and gas exploration and development activities in the Overthrust Belt.

The State of Montana currently has a total of 3.4 million acres of existing wilderness. The Montana Wilderness Act proposes to designate another 747,178 acres (many of which have high potential for energy and minerals) of wilderness along with 507,232 acres of Special Management Areas, which would bring the current total of withdrawn areas for wilderness and special management to around 4.5 million acres.

We would like to point out that this particular wilderness evaluation is not the last, that the Bureau of Land Management is scheduled to complete its own wilderness studies in the near future. It is inevitable that more wilderness will be designated in the future on Bureau lands. We don't believe it is good stewardship to withdraw millions and millions of acres of high potential energy and mineral lands so that they can be placed in a single-use land classification such as wilderness. What will be the long-term impacts to the national economy and the necessary effort to become self-sufficient in critically needed energy and mineral supplies if such massive land withdrawals continue?

We, therefore, urge the Montana delegation to consider the exclusion from wilderness Silver-King Falls Creek, Deep Creek, Trout Creek, East Pioneers, and the Flint Range. The energy and mineral potential of these areas should be given priority consideration over their wilderness values. Moreover, 2,560 acres of Storm Lake are private lands owned by Anaconda Minerals Company and should not be designated wilderness.

Atlantic Richfield Company agrees with the Delegation that continual wilderness study of RARE II lands must be terminated and that the legal sufficiency of the RARE II process must be statutorily affirmed. We believe that enough time and effort have been expended in studying the same Forest lands. More than ten years has been spent gathering data, now is the time to make definite decisions. While some areas should be designated wilderness, many areas should not. Those areas found unsuitable should be released from study and returned to a multiple use classification so that the Forest Service can manage these lands.

We concur with the delegation that buffer zones are unnecessary. It is possible that these buffer zones, supported by preservationists, could eventually extend so far onto other public lands that a major portion of the state could be prohibited from any kind of development. We believe that the purpose of designating wilderness is to provide site-specific areas where the public may enjoy primitive recreation and solitude. Long exploration lead times indicate that release of forest lands until 2000, a mere 16 years away, is short sighted.

Atlantic Richfield Company appreciates this opportunity to present its views to the Public Lands Subcommittee. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

STATEMENT OF JEFFREY F. KELLEY, SENIOR GEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATE, AMOCO PRODUCTION CO.

Mr. KELLEY. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Jeff Kelley. I am a senior geological associate for Amoco Production Co., a subsidiary of Standard of Indiana. We are pleased to have this opportunity to testify concerning the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984.

Our primary job is finding and producing oil and gas. I am on the Denver region staff and our office has this responsibility for the Western United States. We have Federal oil and gas leases and working interests in Montana, so we do have a vital and continuing interest in legislation which may affect access to and disposition of Federal land and resources in the State.

We have participated in many activities, including field hearings, meetings with Forest Service personnel, various associations and task forces. Our technical staff also provided site-specific information to members of the Montana congressional delegation. Our interest naturally results from the fact that wilderness is closed to mineral entry, and we believe too little is known about subsurface values for sound decisionmaking.

Of paramount concern is the proposed Renshaw special management addition. The area contains numerous large, anticlinal features associated with thrust faults. The limited seismic data we have already acquired indicates the presence of potential reservoir rocks and structures. The size of these features is sufficiently large to contain significant hydrocarbon reserves. In the Renshaw/Silver King Area, Amoco has spent over $9 million acquiring information over the last 2 years.

In addition, we have firm plans to drill the Amoco No. 1 Cobb well at a cost of $3 million in September of this year. The drillsite is just 1.5 miles from the proposed Renshaw boundary. The location of this well and an Amoco proposed compromise line are shown on the attached map.

We at Amoco believe that further exploration must be allowed in this area. Congress has been asked to deal with wilderness designation on a piecemeal basis, State by State, agency by agency. Montana has 3.3 million acres of designated wilderness. This bill deals with Forest Service lands in addition to BLM lands proposed and Glacier Park, which is already managed as wilderness, to be handled at a later date. This means that Montana may be asked to provide 5.5 million acres of Federal wilderness, roughly 8,600 square miles. This is roughly eight times the size of Rhode Island.

Yet, while Congress must examine proposals for wilderness separately, the public is being bombarded by an incomprehensible specter called the cumulative impact of oil and gas. Field development, transportation systems, and processing facilities do not always occur in some established pattern. Topography, areal extent, existing pipelines, and the nature of the product vary greatly.

Extraordinary environmental protection measures are routine with our industry, and many public land administrators in both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management will give you numerous examples of excellent responsibility, cooperation, protection, and reclamation practices.

Access to land and national energy policies which encourage tests of new geologic ideas also encourage innovative thinking and technological advances which, in the long run, will benefit the total environment for all of us. Restrictive land use policies which prohibit innovation in the development of resources are a clear and present danger to our national spirit, as well as our national security.

Thank you for this opportunity to present our views.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Kelley follows.]

S. 2850

Montana Wilderness Act of 1984

Statement of

[redacted]

AMOCO PRODUCTION COMPANY

Before the
Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee
of the
Energy and Natural Resources Committee

UNITED STATES SENATE

August 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman, and Members of the Subcommittee:

My name is Jeffrey F. Kelley. I am a Senior Geological Associate for Amoco Production Company, a subsidiary of Standard Oil Company (Indiana). We are pleased to have this opportunity to testify concerning S.2850, the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984.

Our primary job is finding and producing oil and gas. I am on the Denver Region staff, and our region has this responsibility for the western United States. We have federal oil and gas leases and working interests in Montana, so we have a vital and continuing interest in legislation which may affect access to and disposition of federal land and resources in the state. We have participated in many activities, including field hearings, meetings with Forest Service personnel, various associations and task forces. Our scientists also provided site-specific information to members of the Montana Congressional Delegation. Our interest naturally results from the fact that Wilderness is closed to mineral entry, and we believe too little is known about subsurface values in these roadless areas for sound decisionmaking.

Of special concern is the proposed Renshaw special management addition. The area contains numerous large, anticlinal traps associated with thrust faults. The limited seismic data we have already acquired indicates the presence of potential reservoir rocks and structures. The size of these features is sufficiently large to contain significant hydrocarbon reserves. In the Renshaw/Silver King Area, Amoco has spent over $9 million acquiring information over the last two years. In addition, we have firm plans to drill the Amoco #1 Cobb well at a cost of $3 million in September of this year. The drillsite is just 1½ miles from the proposed Renshaw boundary. The location of this well and an Amoco proposed compromise line are shown on the attached map.

The complexity of the geology will require additional heliportable seismic acquisition and interpretation. The element of risk is high, but the area has potential which, we believe, justifies the risk. Amoco believes further exploration must be allowed in this area.

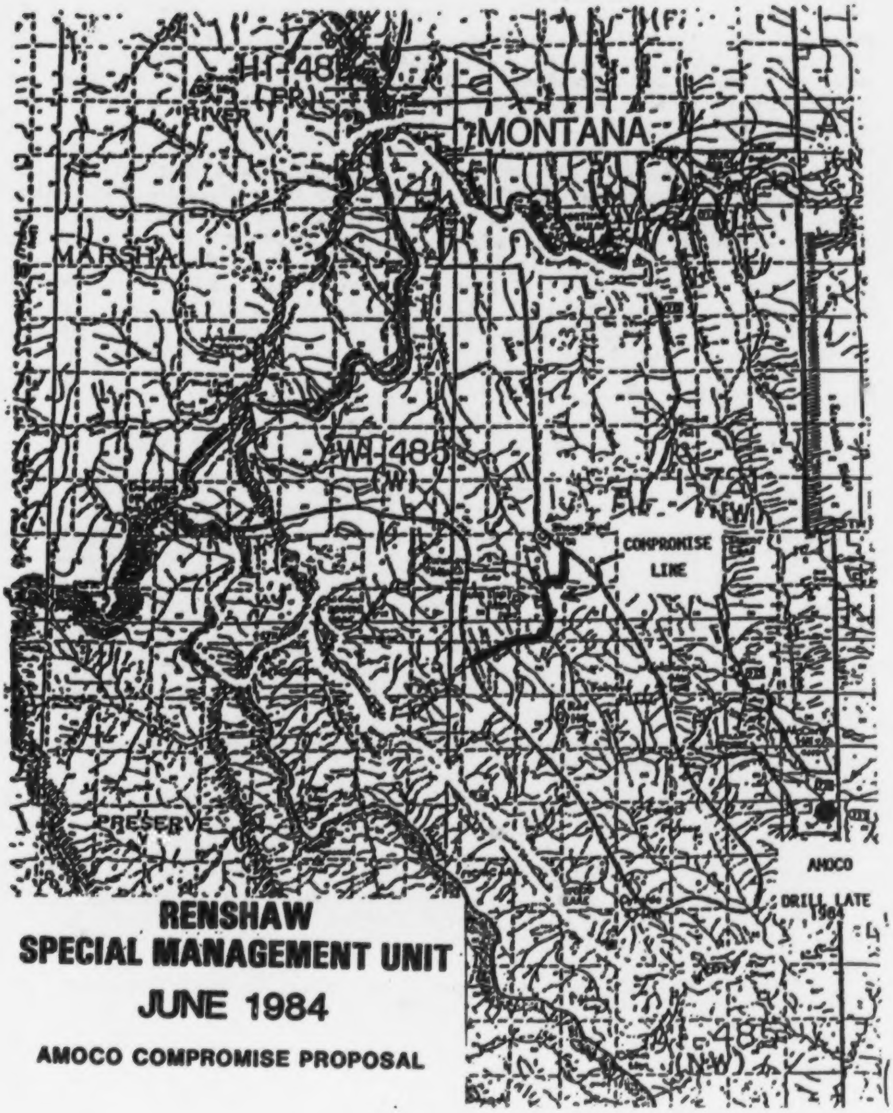
Congress has been asked to deal with wilderness designation on a piecemeal basis, state by state, agency by agency. Montana has 3.3 million acres of designated Wilderness. This bill deals with 750,000 acres under Forest Service management. BLM advises us 445,002 acres are in its final Wilderness study inventory. Glacier National Park has 927,550 acres (everything except vehicle transportation corridors) proposed, and currently managed as wilderness. That means Montana may be asked to provide 5½ million acres of federal Wilderness, roughly 8,600 square miles. Such an area is bigger than each of the States of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey. It is 8 times the size of Rhode Island.

Yet, while Congress must examine proposals for Wilderness separately, the public is being bombarded by an incomprehensible specter called the "cumulative impact" of oil and gas development. Field Development, transportation systems, and processing facilities do not always occur in some established pattern. Topography, areal extent, existing pipelines, and the nature of the product vary greatly. Extraordinary environmental protection measures are routine with our industry, and many public land administrators in both the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will give you numerous examples of excellent responsibility, cooperation, protection, and reclamation practices. The people of Amoco have strong commitments to environmental protection.

Amoco supports the Montana delegation's conclusions that designation of Wilderness should not lead to the creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones, and that the legal and factual sufficiency of the RARE II process must be statutorily affirmed. Language protecting valid existing rights and prohibiting buffer zones should be added to all the proposed special management areas as well. Further, lands which have been subjected to lengthy study and determined to be unsuitable for wilderness must be permanently released with clear, statutory direction to agency professionals to manage for non-wilderness multiple uses as a positive national resource policy. Energy resources are obviously necessary; products and amenities can and must be provided from the federal resource base.

Access to land and national energy policies which encourage tests of new geologic ideas also encourage innovative thinking and technological advances which, in the long run, will benefit the total environment for all of us. Restrictive land use policies which prohibit innovation in the development of resources are a clear and present danger to our national spirit, as well as our national security.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present our views.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RENSHAW
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT UNIT
JUNE 1984

AMOCO COMPROMISE PROPOSAL

STATEMENT OF JOHN HIMEBAUGH, EXPLORATION GEOLOGIST, PHILLIPS OIL CO., DENVER, CO

Mr. HIMEBAUGH. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am John Himebaugh, exploration geologist for Phillips Oil Co., located in Denver, CO. Phillips Oil Co. is a subsidiary of Phillips Petroleum Co.

I appreciate this opportunity to offer Phillips' views on S. 2850, the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984. Phillips Petroleum Co. is concerned with three areas in Montana which have a high potential for oil and gas. These are the Rocky Mountain Front, the Swan Range, Mount Hefty-Tuchuck and the North Absarokas.

The first area, the Rocky Mountain Front, there is great potential for large oil and gas reserves all along the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountain Front in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. This area is the Montana portion of the Overthrust Belt, which is located between two major producing areas of the Overthrust Belt in Canada and Wyoming.

Phillips has acquired 1,300 miles of seismic data along the Rocky Mountain Front area in and adjacent to the RARE II tract, Silver King/Falls Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek, and Choteau Mountain. In addition, Phillips has 13,000 acres under lease which extend along the mountain front. Our vast amount of seismic data indicate that the geology in the area, and specifically the structures that trap oil and gas, are identical to the structures found in the Wyoming and Canadian portions of the Overthrust Belt.

The Silver King/Falls Creek Area, in particular, contains structures that lead us to conclude that this area is particularly favorable for oil and gas potential.

It is because the Rocky Mountain Front has such high potential for oil and gas that we urge that Silver King/Falls Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek and Choteau Mountain not be designated as wilderness, nor should they be withdrawn under any other special classification that would prohibit oil and gas exploration.

Second is the western flank of the Disturbed Belt, which includes Swan Range, Tuchuck, and Mount Hefty areas. Phillips has 90,000 acres of leases along and north of the Swan Range in the Flathead National Forest. In addition, the company has acquired approximately 400 miles of seismic information and is currently conducting a seismic program of another 70 miles.

The structures in this area are similar to the structures in the Canadian and Wyoming portion of the overthrust that are currently producing large amounts of oil and gas. Therefore, we urge that this area remain out of wilderness designation as is now proposed in this legislation.

S. 2850, however, does designate as wilderness two areas north of Swan Range that are also part of the western flank of the Disturbed Belt. These are the Mount Hefty and Tuchuck. Through the 226 miles of seismic data that Phillips has acquired in the vicinity of these two tracts, we have again identified geologic structures that are very similar to those in the Waterton Field which is producing to the northeast in Canada.

Because the petroleum potential for Mount Hefty and Tuchuck is extremely high, we believe that these areas should be excluded from wilderness designation in S. 2850.

North Absarokas. The RARE II areas in the northern and eastern portion of the Absaroka-Bear Tooth Wilderness on the Gallatin National Forest are highly favorable for oil and gas. Phillips currently has over 200 miles of seismic data as well as 18,000 acres of leases in the vicinity of the North Absarokas. Our seismic data indicates that the same rocks and structures exist in the North Absarokas as occur in the Big Horn Basin, which is one of the oldest oil and gas producing areas in Wyoming.

This basin extends from northern Wyoming into southern Montana and contains the Great Elk Valley Field with reserves estimated to exceed 570 million barrels of oil and 350 billion cubic feet of natural gas. Senate 2850 currently excludes this area from wilderness designation and we urge that this area be returned to multiple-use management because of its extremely high oil and gas potential.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our views on this legislation. I will be happy to answer any questions you have.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Himebaugh follows:]

STATEMENT OF

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM COMPANY

ON

S. 2850, THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

BEFORE

THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS & RESERVED WATER

AUGUST 9, 1984

My name is John Himebaugh. I presently serve as Exploration Geologist with Phillips Oil Company's Western Exploration & Production Division, located in Denver, Colorado. Phillips Oil Company is a subsidiary of Phillips Petroleum Company, headquartered in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Phillips Petroleum Company appreciates this opportunity to comment on S. 2850, the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984. In addition, we commend the Montana delegation for its efforts in developing legislation on this very sensitive issue. As a major producer of domestic oil and gas, Phillips is concerned with the management of our nation's public lands. We believe it is essential that all wilderness legislation allow for a balance of multiple uses, particularly in those areas where there is a likelihood of multiple resource values being present.

Phillips Petroleum Company recognizes that there are lands which are sensitive and unique and which qualify for protection and special management. However, we do not believe that lands with the geological potential for oil and gas should be designated as wilderness before an accurate assessment of their mineral resources is made. There is a general lack of knowledge as to the resource potential of lands being considered for wilderness or other special use categories. In essence, such assessments are not being made.

An area's subsurface resources are potentially as important as its surface resources. Therefore, it is critical that mineral resources be thoroughly evaluated prior to designating an area as wilderness. Furthermore, in order to determine the best use of the land, Congress must have all relevant information about the area's resources -- both surface and subsurface. If areas are withdrawn before accurate assessments of their mineral potential are made, critical information is not available in the decision-making process.

The importance of these resource evaluations can be seen in the fact that it is estimated that the United States must find approximately 32 billion barrels of domestic crude oil during the next ten years just to replace what is being used up. However, present domestic exploration must be increased significantly in order to meet that goal. Last summer, we began to see increases in crude oil imports again, and such imports have reached about the same level as before the Arab oil embargo. Many believe that the federal lands hold a large portion of the remaining energy supplies of America, including about 37 percent of our undiscovered oil and 43 percent of our undiscovered natural gas. In order to meet our country's future energy needs, we must have a domestic policy which is favorable to and encourages an active oil and gas exploration program. The above mentioned resource assessments and, particularly, the availability of land with high resource potential are vital components to such a policy.

Phillips Petroleum Company is concerned with three areas in Montana which have high potential for oil and gas. These are the eastern flank of the Disturbed Belt, the western flank of the Disturbed Belt and the North Absarokas.

Eastern Disturbed Belt - (The Rocky Mountain Front)

There is great potential for large oil and gas reserves all along the eastern boundary of the Rocky Mountain front in the Lewis and Clark National Forest. This area is the Montana portion of the Overthrust Belt (called the Disturbed Belt in Montana). The well publicized Overthrust Belt is a north-south trending geological feature extending 2,200 miles from Alaska to Central America. It is an area that was formed more than 100 million years ago when huge masses of the earth's crust were squeezed together and moved over distances of many miles. This tremendous movement caused very intense crumbling and breaking of the rock layers within these large masses. The rock layers were then folded to form structures which now entrap oil and gas. As a result, the area contains the most complex geology in North America.

The Disturbed Belt of Montana is located between two major producing areas of the Overthrust Belt. Oil and gas have been proven to exist in major quantities in the Canadian portion of the Overthrust Belt as well as in the Wyoming portion. Since the first Overthrust Belt production was found near Calgary, Alberta, it is estimated that about 16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and 400 million barrels of oil have been found in the Canadian portion. Since 1975, many additional fields have been found in the Overthrust in Western Wyoming and adjacent Utah. It is estimated that

8.5 trillion cubic feet of gas and 623 million barrels of oil have been found in these areas alone. There is also production from the disturbed belt of Montana in the Two Medicine, East Glacier and Black Leaf Canyon fields.

Phillips has acquired 1,300 miles of seismic data along the Rocky Mountain Front area, in and adjacent to the RARE II tracks Silver King/Falls Creek, Renshaw Mountains, Deep Creek, and Choteau Mountain. In addition, Phillips has 13,000 acres under lease which extend along the mountain front from Townships 15 North to 28 North, Ranges 3 West to 10 West. Our vast amount of seismic data indicate that the geology in the area, and specifically the structures that trap the oil and gas, are identical to the structures found in the Wyoming and Canadian portions of the Overthrust Belt where large fields are producing both oil and gas. The Silver King/Falls Creek area, in particular, contains structures that lead us to conclude that this area is particularly favorable for oil and gas potential.

It is because the Rocky Mountain Front has such high potential for oil and gas, that we urge that Silver King/Falls Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Deep Creek and Choteau Mountain not be designated as wilderness, nor should they be withdrawn under any other "special classification" that would prohibit oil and gas exploration.

Western Flank of the Disturbed Belt (Swan Range, Tuchuck-Mt. Hefty)

Phillips has 90,000 acres of leases along and north of the Swan Range in the Flathead National Forest in Townships

25 North through 34 North, Ranges 19 West through 23 West. In addition, the company has acquired approximately 400 miles of seismic information and is currently conducting a seismic program of another 70 miles. The geologic information that we have gathered from the seismic data indicates that the geology in this area (north of the Jewel Basin hiking area) is again the Montana portion of the Overthrust Belt. Accordingly, the structures in this area are similar to the structures in the Canadian and Wyoming portion of the Overthrust that are currently producing large amounts of oil and gas. Therefore, we urge that this area remain out of wilderness designation as is now proposed in the legislation.

S. 2850, however, does designate as wilderness two areas north of the Swan Range that also are a part of the western flank of the Disturbed Belt. These are Mt. Hefty and Tuchuck. Through the 226 miles of seismic data that Phillips has acquired in the vicinity of these two tracts, we have again identified geologic structures that are very similar to those in the Waterton Field which is producing to the northeast in Canada. The Waterton Field, to date, has produced 1.3 trillion cubic feet of gas and contains estimated reserves of 2.2 trillion cubic feet of gas. Because the petroleum potential for Mt. Hefty and Tuchuck is extremely high, we believe that these areas should be excluded from wilderness designation in S. 2850.

North Absarokas

The RARE II areas in the northern and eastern portion of the Absaroka-Bear Tooth wilderness on the Gallatin National Forest are highly favorable for oil and gas. Phillips currently has over 200 miles of seismic data as well as 18,000 acres of leases in the vicinity of the North Absarokas. Our seismic data indicates that the same rocks and structures exist in the North Absarokas as occur in the Big Horn Basin, which is one of the oldest oil and gas producing areas in Wyoming. This basin extends from Northern Wyoming into Southern Montana and contains the Great Elk Valley field with reserves estimated to exceed 570 million barrels of oil and 350 billion cubic feet of natural gas. S. 2850 currently excludes this area from wilderness designation, and we urge that this area be returned to multiple-use management because of its extremely high oil and gas potential.

Finally, Phillips Petroleum supports the provisions in S. 2850 to prevent the establishment of buffer zones around wilderness areas. Wilderness should be designated as site specific areas with clearly defined boundaries. Therefore, we believe provisions to prevent the creation of buffer zones around wilderness areas are an important component of S. 2850.

This country's wilderness programs have been administered under the misconception that protection of esthetic and environmental values and production of natural resources cannot occur simultaneously without irreparable damage to the environment. Utilizing modern technology and environmental laws and regulations, natural resource development and environmental protection can complement each other as is evident by several large producing oil and gas fields such as Bridger Lake in Utah and Prudhoe Bay.

We must also recognize that our country's natural resources are finite and that our proven oil and gas reserves are declining. In the interest of national security we must identify and have available these valuable commodities so that they can be brought into production as needed. When taken individually, existing and proposed land withdrawals wuch as those identified in S. 2850 may not seem important in the overall energy production picture. Collectively, however, these areas, when placed off limits to energy production, create a formidable barrier to achieving needed domestic energy production.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to present our views on S. 2850, the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD T. HUGHES, CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE, ROCKY MOUNTAIN OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION, DENVER, CO

Mr. HUGHES. Thank you, Senator. My name is Richard Hughes. I am employed by Chevron U.S.A., Inc. in Denver. I am here today as chairman of the Lands Committee of the Rocky Mountain Oil & Gas Association, which is referred to as RMOGA.

RMOGA's position on S. 2850 has three basic components. First, we believe that a balanced wilderness legislation can only be achieved with permanent release of land determined unsuitable for wilderness.

The second point, lands of high geologic favorability should remain available to mineral exploration and development.

Third, lands not designated as wilderness should be managed according to the forest plan and should not be burdened with additional, unclear mandates. We have spoken at length before both this committee and the House Interior Committee about our position on release, and I believe it is clear that we do not endorse the release, so-called compromise language that is in the bill.

I will not dwell on that, but if there are any questions on our position, I would be glad to answer those.

With regard to the second component, we have got several of our members here today and several have spoken to members of the delegation privately with their concerns about areas where they feel the oil and gas potential outweighs the other values in that area, and those should therefore remain available. We urge you to give those areas special consideration.

Since those two points we believe have been covered adequately, I would like to focus the rest of my statement on the special management classifications, and the troublesome precedent that this establishes for future management of the National Forest System. In addition to designating wilderness in 21 areas totaling over 750,000 acres, this legislation proposes to dictate the day-to-day on-the-ground site-specific management of 11 additional areas totaling over 500,000 acres. And this, notwithstanding the fact that Congress has already made its policy statement in legislation such as the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960, the Range Land and Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

In addition to this legislation, the Congress has also seen fit to fund the employment of over 30,000 permanent full-time employees in the Forest Service. But still there is a perceived need to create special classifications, and we have limited the choices of the Forest Service in managing these areas but without providing clear statutory direction, which you have in the case of wilderness or National Park System.

It appears that some of these areas contain critical grizzly bear, elk habitat, recreation and wildlife values, scenic values, hiking opportunities and that because these exist the areas should be managed to enhance these resources. That decision is precisely the purpose of the forest plans developed under the RPA. But under those plans, they are subject to change with conditions and needs of the area, which is not so with legislation. Further, these decisions are subject to appeal by parties adversely affected. Again, that is not so with legislation.

We do not mean to question the authority of the Congress to create special classifications, but we suggest that the direction provided in the previous legislation is terribly clear and we believe the Forest Service with their trained professionals are capable of managing areas under the previous direction.

We would urge you to limit your deliberations to wilderness or nonwilderness and allow the forest planning process to work.

Thank you for the time. I would be happy to answer your questions.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hughes follows:]

STATEMENT OF
RICHARD T. HUGHES
REPRESENTING THE
ROCKY MOUNTAIN OIL AND GAS ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE
SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER
AUGUST 9, 1984

My name is Richard T. Hughes. I am employed by Chevron U.S.A. Inc. as a legislative and regulatory analyst in Denver, Colorado. I am here today as the Chairman of the Lands Committee of the Rocky Mountain Oil and Gas Association, known as RMOGA. RMOGA is a trade association representing hundreds of companies and individuals involved in all phases of oil and gas activities throughout the Rocky Mountain states. Our membership is diverse, and includes major companies as well as small and medium-sized independent operators active in this region. These operators help to employ some 90,000 people in jobs directly affiliated with the oil and gas industry in the Rocky Mountain area, and account for 90% of the oil and gas resources produced in this eight-state area. We feel that continued access to Federal lands for oil and gas exploration and development is of paramount importance, not only to our members, but to the local, state, regional and national economy as well.

We welcome the opportunity to appear before this Subcommittee concerning a RARE II bill for the State of Montana. We believe the time has come to resolve the RARE II issue once and for all, and we applaud the efforts of the Montana Delegation in attempting to develop compromise legislation on this very sensitive issue.

We have appeared before Congress on several occasions over the past three years on RARE II wilderness legislation. We have urged Congress to adopt balanced bills which would satisfy the many users of the public land. We have stressed the need for protection of special, environmentally-sensitive lands, while advocating the return to multiple use of other lands, which remain subject to restrictions and stipulations to protect the environment from unnecessary impacts. We believe such a balance can be achieved in this legislation.

RMOGA's position has three basic components:

1. Balanced wilderness legislation can only be achieved with permanent release of lands determined to be unsuitable for wilderness designation.

2. Lands of high geologic favorability should remain available for mineral exploration and development.

3. Lands not designated wilderness should be managed according to Forest Plans and should not be burdened with additional unclear Congressional mandates.

RMOGA has spoken at length before this Committee, and before the House Interior Committee, about the need for permanent release language in this and other wilderness bills. We have also recently testified in the House Interior Committee about the woefully inadequate compromise release language contained in the Idaho Bill, which language is also included in this Montana Bill. I think our position on this issue is clear, but I would be glad to answer any questions which remain.

With regard to our second point, a number of our members will testify today, or have previously spoken to members of the Montana Delegation, about areas proposed for wilderness or other special management where the best available information indicates that the potential for discovery of significant deposits of oil and gas outweighs the wilderness or other special values. We urge the Committee to give special consideration to these areas and to maintain multiple use management for lands of favorable geologic potential so that these resosurces can be developed.

Since we believe the first two components of our position have been covered adequately, I would like to focus my entire statement on the special classifications created by this legislation and the troublesome precedent it establishes for future management of the National Forest System.

In addition to designating wilderness in 21 areas totalling nearly 750,000 acres, this legislation also proposes to dictate the day-to-day, on the ground, site-specific management of eleven areas totalling over 500,000 additional acres. And this notwithstanding the fact that Congress has already given policy direction to the Forest Service in the form of the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960, and the Rangeland and Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. In addition to the relatively clear direction of these statutory instructions, the Congress has seen fit to fund the employment of over 30,000 permanent full-time employees in the Forest Service to implement these directions.

But still there is a perceived need to create special classifications and take the management of these lands out of the professional hands of the Forest Service for some undetermined amount of time, and possibly in perpetuity. What is worse, this proposal limits the choices of the Forest Service in managing these areas without the clear guidance of an established classification such as the National Park System, or even the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The best that can be gleaned from the statutory language is that certain lands contain critical grizzly bear and elk habitat, recreation and wildlife values, scenic values, and opportunities for hiking. Therefore, these areas should be managed to enhance these resources. That decision, however, is precisely the purpose of the Forest Plans developed under the RPA. But under those plans the management decisions are dynamic and can change as conditions and needs change. Not so with legislation. Forest Plans are developed under a disciplined process which requires that lands be managed for as many uses as possible, but when allocations are made for single or few uses, that the trade-offs be recognized. Further, such decisions are subject to appeal by parties adversely affected by the decision. Again, not so of the legislative process.

We do not mean to question the authority of the Congress to create special classifications of lands. We only suggest that the classifications created in this bill grant the Forest Service no new authority and that through their planning process, the Forest Service may likely reach the same conclusions about how these areas should be managed. The Forest planning process was developed under the guidance of Congress, and although we have had our differences on specific aspects of the process, we believe it is fundamentally sound. We also believe that the trained professionals within the Forest Service are best able to make the on-the-ground decisions necessary to implement this system.

Thus, we respectfully submit that the process be allowed to work. Unclear mandates can only serve to continue the confusion which has pervaded forest management throughout its wilderness studies over the past decade and more. We urge you to limit your deliberations to which areas should be designated as wilderness (of course, with due regard to the oil and gas potential of areas brought to your attention by our members), and leave the management of the remainder of the National Forest System to the Forest Service in accordance with existing Congressional mandate.

STATEMENT OF DARWIN VAN DE GRAAFF, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION, HELENA, MT

Mr. VAN DE GRAAFF. Thank you, Senator. My name is Darwin Van De Graaff. I am the executive director of the Montana Petroleum Association. Our association maintains offices in Helena and Billings, MT, and it is our purpose to help represent the interest of oil companies, both large and small, doing business in the State of Montana.

Our association is not opposed to the designation of new wilderness areas. We recognize there are lands which are sensitive and unique and which qualify for special management protection. However, several factors should be taken into account when determining what type of protective management is warranted.

It is our belief that an area's subsurface resources are as important as its surface resources. We believe an area's mineral resources should be explored prior to making permanent decisions regarding management of the land. Unfortunately much of the land recommended for wilderness through this legislation has not been adequately explored for its mineral potential.

A second factor which should be taken into account is that wilderness designation is not the only way an area's surface resources can be protected. Existing laws, and you have heard the list repeated, provide superlative protection for all of our Nation's environmental resources. It is simply in error to assume that unless a particular land piece is designated wilderness that it will not be protected from misuse.

The oil industry is anxious to demonstrate its ability to explore and to develop on the land in a manner compatible with other user interest groups. We believe the evidence strongly supports our claim that our presence in a given area does not preclude other activity nor threaten other interests. Those interests include values commonly referred to as wilderness values.

If this bill were to become law, changes should be made in the language affecting valid existing rights. Regardless of the current provisions designated to protect valid existing rights, the practical fact remains that it would be extremely difficult to obtain permits for operations on lands within the wilderness boundaries.

We encourage the committee to strengthen the valid existing rights language included in any legislation designating new wilderness areas or in this bill new special management areas. Such language is needed to demonstrate Congress' intent to protect the rights of the lease holder and to assure that the lease holder has access to his property.

Let me quickly state our full position on this legislation. We continue to urge the Congress to establish permit release language for nonwilderness areas. We oppose the special management areas on practical terms because our industry is totally excluded from those areas and on philosophic terms because we believe those lands not designated as wilderness should remain under Forest Service jurisdiction.

Finally, if the bill is to become law, we strongly encourage that the language be included that would guarantee the validity of existing rights.

Again, thank you for your attention and for the opportunity to be here.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Van De Graaff follows:]

STATEMENT OF

DARWIN VAN DE GRAAFF

REPRESENTING THE

MONTANA PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION

BEFORE THE

SENATE ENERGY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER

AUGUST 9, 1984

My name is Darwin Van De Graaff and I am the Executive Director of the Montana Petroleum Association. Our Association maintains offices in Helena and Billings, Montana, and it is our purpose to help represent the interest of oil companies, both large and small, who are doing business in Montana. We appreciate the opportunity to be here today to express our views.

The Montana Petroleum Association is not opposed to the designation of new wilderness areas. We recognize there clearly are lands which are sensitive and unique and which qualify for special management and protection. However, several factors should be taken into account when determining what type of protective management is warranted.

First it is our belief that an area's subsurface resources are as important as an area's surface resources. We believe an area's mineral resources should be explored prior to making permanent decisions regarding management of that land. Unfortunately, much of the land recommended for wilderness through this legislation has not been adequately explored for its mineral potential. We believe areas of high geologic favorability should remain open to exploration so that if oil and gas resources are present in significant quantities, they can be produced for the benefit of the people of Montana and of the nation.

Congress is faced with the decision as to what is the best use of the RARE II lands under consideration in this legislation. Therefore, Congress should have all relative information about the land's resources, both surface and subsurface. If mineral resources are unknown because exploration has been prohibited, one of the most important components to sound decision making is blatantly lacking.

A second factor which should be taken into account in determining what type of land management prescription is best for a specific area is that wilderness designation is not the only way an area's surface resources can be protected. Existing statutes including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy Management Act, the Clean Air Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act provide superlative protection for all of our nation's environmental resources. It is simply in error to assume that unless a particular land piece is designated wilderness, it will not be protected from misuse.

Currently there are 3.3 million acres of land in Montana designated as wilderness. S.2850 would add nearly 750,000 acres to the wilderness designation and create another 500,000 acres for special management. In that oil and gas activities are precluded from the special management areas, as far as my industry is concerned, the bill creates another 1.2 million acres of wilderness. These figures do not include the BLM wilderness study areas, which Congress has yet to consider.

While a large and diverse wilderness system may be desirable, the best wilderness is not necessarily the biggest one. Given the significant resource potential of many of the lands being proposed for wilderness, it seems logical that some account should be made for other needs of the state and the nation. The oil industry is anxious to demonstrate its ability to explore and develop on the land in a manner compatible with other user interests. We believe the evidence strongly supports our claim that our presence in a given area does not preclude other activity nor threaten other interests. Those interests include values commonly referred to as wilderness values.

A recent Associated Press release that appeared in the Helena newspaper reported on demonstrations orchestrated by so-called environmental groups who were protesting what they claimed to be irresponsible behavior on the part of Montana's Congressional Delegation. One of the organizers of the protest is quoted as saying that unless the wilderness legislation is changed to accommodate them, and here I quote, "there is much more civil disobedience to come and it's going to grow." The Montana Petroleum Association sees no evidence that our Congressional Delegation will be responsive to these tactics. However, I think it's important to point out just how the "opponents" are behaving. At earlier hearings our industry was asked to sit down with those on the other side and work out a reasonable compromise. I reaffirm here today that we are willing to discuss the issues and willing to reach some sort of accommodation with varying interests concerned with wilderness. The mentality and the behavior exhibited at the recent demonstrations, and the threat of future disorders, precludes any meaningful dialogue between our two groups.

There has been some discussion stating the total amount of mineral resources that might be affected by S.2850 to be minimal and insignificant. I've heard the figure that around 1% of the national oil need is all that would be locked up should this bill become law. I am suggesting that 1% of the national need is considerable and is especially considerable or significant to the State of Montana. The development of those resources, particularly those along what is commonly called the east front, is of vital importance. The economy of our state and the availability of supply within our region can seriously be affected.

If this bill were to become law, changes should be made in the language affecting valid existing rights. Payment of oil and gas leases are a strong indication of a company's interest in the geology of an area, and in its committment to development. We encourage that the legislation exclude all existing oil and gas leases from the boundaries of the proposed wilderness areas.

Regardless of the current provision designated to protect valid existing rights, the practical fact remains that it would be extremely difficult to obtain permits for operations on lands within the wilderness boundaries. We encourage the committee to strengthen the valid existing rights language included in any legislation designating new wilderness areas or in this case, special management areas. Such language is needed to demonstrate Congress' intent to protect the rights of the lease holder and to assure that the lease holder has access to his property.

Let me summarize our position:

We continue to urge the Congress to establish permanent release language for non-wilderness areas. We believe that equity would require that if non-wilderness areas are under continual review for wilderness designation, wilderness areas should be under continual review for reclassification as well.

Our industry remains willing to work out differences with other interest groups, but have not found them willing to work with us.

We oppose the special management areas on practical terms because our industry is totally excluded from those areas, and on philisophic terms because we believe those lands not designated as wilderness should remain under Forest Service jurisdiction.

Finally, if this bill is to become law, we strongly encourage that language be included that would guarantee the validity of existing rights.

Again, let me thank you for this opportunity and thank you for your attention.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Senator Baucus.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you, John. Gentlemen, as I understand you, you are saying that those areas where there is no oil and gas potential, that as far as you are practically concerned, if there are other wilderness values, it can be wilderness. You do not object if there is no oil and gas potential. Is that a correct statement? Does anybody disagree with that?

Mr. HUGHES. I think that accurately states the position of the association.

Senator BAUCUS. My next question is a more difficult one. That is where there is oil and gas potential, you are opposed to those areas being designated wilderness. I can understand that. I would be making the same point if I were in your position. But what guidance can you give us in determining how much oil and gas potential is necessary to rise to the level of preventing an area from becoming wilderness? I mean if we know there is a big field there and let's say it is in the basin of the Rocky Mountain front. Then we know what we have here. I think that is an easier question.

But what happens when we do not yet know what the potential is, what guidance can you give us as to how long we have to wait, if we should wait at all or what development potential is sufficient in order to either release into wilderness or to prevent something from going into wilderness?

We need some guidance there, because I think this is an important question that we all have to face, and it has to be faced if we are going to resolve this.

Mr. KELLEY. The industry is so early in the exploration process in Montana, we are still in the data acquisition stage. Phillips made the point that this portion of the Thrustbelt, as we know it, is in between two highly prolific producing places in Canada and down in southwestern Wyoming and eastern Utah. We are trying to fill in the gap. The potential is obvious. I would emphasize, let us do our job.

Senator BAUCUS. Let's assume there is high wilderness potential here, and I think there is wilderness potential here. There are wilderness features here in these areas, particularly the Rocky Mountain Front. Even if oil and gas is a legitimate competing need to prevent an area from going into wilderness, I am not addressing that question yet, but let's assume it is for the purposes of discussion here, that is if it is developed, how long should we wait to see whether that development in fact is there? How long do we wait to see whether it is a viable, producing area?

So far we don't have a lot of production there.

Mr. HUGHES. It is somewhat difficult to say how long, because unfortunately economics will dictate to a great degree when a company actually comes in and drills a hole. They can collect data which tells us more than we know now in a lot of areas, but until you really drill a well it cannot be very conclusive. Even some wells are not terribly conclusive. But the economics of the situation will dictate a lot of it.

I think we heard today people speaking of fairly immediate plans in certain areas.

Mr. Van De Graaff. I think it is important, first, that we do not feel that our presence in terms of doing exploratory work would violate those other values and that we can continue to explore and determine what that potential is without disrupting other things of importance.

Second, I think while we may agree or disagree with what Congress ultimately does in that area, that Congress itself should have as many facts available to them before they lock up anything, so they know what they are locking up. In the absence of that information, no one can determine whether it outweighs one value or another.

If we had 10 barrels of oil there and someone decided that was not enough, we may disagree with that, but at least the decision is made accurately. At some point we are going to have to fish and cut bait. I am just trying to figure out where that point lies.

You count acres and you weigh them and the total number of acres is not as important as is their value and until we know the total potential of whatever acreage we are talking about, that is a very difficult question to answer.

Mr. Elmore. Senator Baucus, in terms of valid existing rights, the Federal simultaneous leases in this area have a primary exploration term of 10 years.

Senator Baucus. I am sorry, what is that again?

Mr. Elmore. I said in terms of valid, existing rights, the Federal oil and gas simultaneous leases in this area have an exploratory primary term of 10 years.

Senator Baucus. That raises one other question, what to do about those leases, which I do not think has been totally resolved yet. I am just looking for guidance as to at what point do we know, how much information do we need in order to make a decision?

Mr. Sweet. Senator, I would like to take a little bit different tact on that in answer to that question. First of all, we have to explore broad areas, because we do not have a good feel for where the resource is. If we did, we would all be happy and go to it.

Second, the seismic phase is not disruptive and we could look at most of the land with the seismic phase and by doing that, we eliminate a lot of areas and after we have eliminated them, as far as we are concerned, then they become de facto wilderness. Even when we finally boil an area down, it is a very insignificant percentage of the total area in which we are first interested.

Now, how long do you wait? Well, I do not think there is an answer to that question. If you wait a long, long time, it does not change the fact situation or the things I just mentioned, first of all.

Second, if you wait a long time, the longer you wait the less chance there is that the oil industry is interested in a given piece of property and the property then again becomes de facto wilderness. Beyond that, I do not think it is possible to ever give you a specific time certain as to when or beyond which you won't have to wait.

Senator Baucus. Do you think it is proper for the Forest Service to try to in some sense designate some national forest lands as first available for seismic and exploratory and development and if it turns out production work, compared to other national forest lands where there are other competing values; namely, wilderness? Or do you think it should be national forest policy to grant the leases and to allow the exploration and development and so forth regardless of other competing values? Should the Forest Service say, OK, this area first, because there are no competing values or should the Forest Service say anywhere because competing values are not relevant?

What do you think proper public, U.S. public policy should be in answer to that question?

Mr. HUGHES. The reality of the situation is that oil and gas lie where we happen to find it and the Forest Service telling us where to look and in what order can have no impact on where the oil and gas lie.

Senator BAUCUS. That is not the question I am asking, though.

Mr. HUGHES. I believe, in direct answer to your question, that the good public policy is to have the entire national forest available and allow the oil and gas industry with its expertise to find the areas where they want to be.

Senator BAUCUS. Regardless of other values?

Mr. HUGHES. Yes. I do not think we are necessarily incompatible with other values. I think certain accommodations have to be made in certain areas, certainly. But the simple decision of, yes, you get in here or, no, you don't, I don't think that decision has to be made.

Mr. SWEET. Sir, I would say not in exclusion of other values, certainly, but at least given equal weight with other values, and that is I believe what we see. We see that oil and gas exploration is not given equal treatment with other values.

Senator BAUCUS. So you would say other values should be included, but to be given equal weight?

Mr. SWEET. Yes, sir.

Senator BAUCUS. As opposed to—and I don't mean to put words in your mouth—but as I hear you, you are saying to exclude other values.

Mr. HUGHES. I am saying accommodate other values but do not exclude oil and gas. That is in the history of the Mineral Leasing Act.

Senator BAUCUS. Thank you.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you all very much.

Our next panel is Lex Blood, Montana Wilderness Association; Patty Busko, Wilderness Resource Association; Cary Lund, Audubon Society of Montana; Ken Knudson, Montana Wildlife Federation; Pat McClelland, Trout Unlimited. I believe that is it.

Lex Blood—we will go according to the listing on the panel.

STATEMENT OF DR. LEX BLOOD, FLATHEAD CHAPTER, MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION, COLUMBIA FALLS, MT

Dr. BLOOD. Thank you, Senator Melcher and Senator Baucus. My name is Lex Blood and I am a resident of Columbia Falls, MT, representing the Flathead Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association, my family and myself.

Although, there are certainly aspects of this statewide bill which concern me, I shall confine my remarks to the portions of the proposed bill affecting the Flathead region.

Issues affecting the quality of life in this area are certainly not new to me. During the past years I have been involved in various ways in many natural resource matters. My knowledge of and commitment to the region runs deep. I consider the present discussion regarding the disposition of our remaining wildlands to be an integral part of our efforts to maintain and enhance the overall economic and aesthetic quality of life valued by residents of northwest Montana.

Let me detail specifically my comments regarding the bill.

We are certainly pleased that the wild values of the so-called north end, specifically the Mount Hefty and Tuchuck Areas, have been recognized and these areas selected for wilderness. Of equal value and logically a part of this unit is the Thompson-Seton area. The three, together comprising approximately 61,500 acres, are known to contain the densest grizzly population in the continental United States to be home to an increasingly evident grey wolf population and, more recently, the locale for sightings and sign of mountain caribou. Mr. Doug Chadwick will make more specific comments regarding the biological resources of this area.

While we are pleased with the boundary selections for the Ten Lakes Wilderness, we object to the inclusion of S-393 study areas in this bill, which we believe should pertain only to RARE II lands, and we therefore recommend that the Ten Lakes Wilderness be established through separate legislation.

However, if the bill treats the North End relatively well, although incompletely, unfortunately by contrast, its consideration of the Northern Swan Range from Columbia Mountain to Six-Mile Mountain, including the now famous Jewel Basin Hiking Area, is greatly lacking.

Living as my family and I do at the foot of Blaine Mountain in the heart of the Northern Swans, we have both a familiarity with and a personal bias toward proper management of this area.

The Swan Range forms a spectacular backdrop for the Flathead Valley and while it is a geologic unit separate from the Mission Range, which borders the east side of Flathead Lake, the two together are the dominant scenic and physiographic features of the area. The Swan Range is to our valley scenically and economically what the Tetons are to Jackson Hole.

Along with family and friends, ranging from youngsters to senior citizens, I have hiked the length of the crest, visited many of its 50 lakes and as a sightseer and geologist I have marveled at the regional panoramic vistas offered from its perspective.

The Swan Crest is one of those unique environments that contain all the classic aspects we have come to associate with wilderness, such as solitude, physical beauty, wildlife and watershed protection, but it also enables us to view from a wilderness sanctuary our more usual environment, the urban centers and rural lands below.

From a perch atop the crest, one senses in the same sweep both the significance and the insignificance of our human interaction with the land. Ranging from views of the peaks of Glacier National Park to the north, the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas to the east and south, the Swan Valley, Mission Range, and Flathead Lake to the south, the beautiful Flathead Valley to the west and Whitefish Range to the north, one has a contrast of landscapes rarely afforded to earthbound observers.

Within a few steps, however, one can withdraw into a wilderness setting as rich and complete as any in Montana.

On February 9, 1978, prior to the passage of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of that year, Morris Udall lucidly clarified the compatibility of wilderness and populated areas, as in the Pusch Ridge, Sandia, and Lone Peak Wilderness Areas.

The outstanding attributes of the Swan Range have long been recognized by resident and visitor alike. The Jewel Basin, which forms the core of the Swan Crest Wilderness proposal, so impressed the Rev. Eugene Milne Cosgrove of Helena, MT, that after visiting the area in 1919, he selected it the subject for his sermon at the First Unitarian Church on September 14 of that year.

Bob Marshall also hiked in the basin in 1982 and conservationists have worked for protection of the area since the mid-1950's. The alternative W proposal for the Swan Crest has been specifically endorsed locally by the Bigfork and Swan Lake Chambers of Commerce, and public testimony at the Senate hearing in Missoula last year heavily favored wilderness designation.

With respect specifically to Jewel Basin, we emphasize that during the 1960's the Flathead National Forest recommended the area for wilderness. The land has not changed since that time. In addition, Governor Schwinden's Wilderness Recommendation of May 10, 1984 also recommended the area for wilderness designation.

Potential timber conflicts involve less than 9 percent of the area. It would have a zero impact on scheduled timber harvest on the Flathead Forest for the next 20 years and no effect within the statistical significance of the data out to the fifth decade.

Hard rock mining prospects do not exist. Oil and gas potential is highly speculative at best and in addition the acres involved is insignificant in comparison to the considerably more than 1 million acres presently leased on the Flathead Forest.

Recreation conflicts are limited to approximately 600 recreational visitor days or 3 percent of the forestwide annual use, and this is concentrated in the Columbia Mountain Region.

The proposed boundary has been ground-truced, checked against Forest Service maps and data, and conforms to cultural, ecological, and topographic features. It is logical and manageable. A detailed internal valuation and an analysis document of the Flathead Wilderness area as prepared by Forest staff, dated February 1984, singles out the Swan Front, Swan Crest, and North End areas as being of prime wilderness value. After examining potential effect on timber harvest, recreation, wildlife, fisheries, minerals, oil and gas, insect, disease and fire management, the report states that this analysis of the effects of wilderness designation of the above roadless areas on other resources indicates that conflicts are minimal to non-existent.

In addition, I would like to quote two other places from that particular internal document, which summarizes its intent. "We have the opportunity to recommend additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System that are unique and significant on a national scale. This opportunity exists only to a very limited degree elsewhere in the lower 48 States. We have the opportunity to recommend areas where on a local scale, the conflicts and tradeoffs are minimal and on a national scale, they are insignificant."

The second quote, "The wilderness values of these areas are outstanding on a national scale. The conflicts and tradeoffs resulting from wilderness designation would be minimal to nonexistent. Given this combination of high wilderness quality and relatively minimal conflict with other resource uses, if these areas do not warrant a wilderness recommendation, it is difficult to imagine what areas of the National Forest System would qualify. The unique character of the Flathead wildlands cannot be reproduced anywhere else in this country.

In summary, we strongly recommend inclusion of the Thompson-Seton area, the Mount Hefty and the Tuchuck in the North End and that the Swan Crest, including the Jewel Basin, be included in this bill's wilderness designation.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Dr. Blood follows:]

STATEMENT

of

Dr. Lex Blood
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

August 9, 1984
Washington, DC

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SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS ON S.B. 2850
(Montana Wilderness Bill)

Mr. Chairman, and Senate Subcommittee members -

My name is Lex Blood, and I am a resident of Columbia Falls, Montana, representing the Flathead Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association.

It is an honor and a pleasure to be here today to testify before your committee on the proposed Montana Wilderness Bill (S 2850). I am particularly indebted to the numerous dedicated Montana conservationists whose financial contributions have afforded me this opportunity.

Although there are numerous aspects of this state-wide bill which concern me, I shall confine my remarks to the portions of the proposed bill affecting the Flathead region.

Issues affecting the quality of life in the area are not new to me as during the past eleven years, in addition to my full-time employment, I have served variously as coordinator for the Flathead Conservation District; five years as a member of the Flathead County Planning Board; five years as a member of the Steering Committee of the Flathead River Basin Environmental Impact Study; regional representative to the state-wide Environmental Information Center and co-founder of the Flathead Chapter; member of the Natural Resources Committee of the Kalispell-Area Chamber of Commerce; and Board Member of the Flathead Coalition, a broad-based citizen's group concerned with the impacts of a proposed open-pit coal mine on the headwaters of the Flathead River just north of the U.S.-Canadian Border. Within the past year, I have co-founded the Glacier Institute, a non-profit, educational institution conducting field courses in Glacier National Park.

My knowledge of and commitment to the region runs deep. I consider the present discussion regarding the disposition of our remaining wildlands to be an integral part of our efforts to maintain and enhance the overall economic and aesthetic quality of life valued by residents of northwest Montana.

Let me detail specifically my comments regarding the Bill:

We are certainly pleased that the wild values of the so-called North End - specifically the Mt. Hefty and Tuchuck areas - have been recognized and these areas selected for wilderness. Of equal value and logically a part of this unit, is the Thompson-Seton area. The three, together comprising approximately 61,500 acres, are known to contain the densest grizzly population in the continental U.S., to be home to an increasingly evident grey-wolf population and, more recently, the locale for sightings and sign of Mountain Caribou. Mr. Doug Chadwick has (or will) make more specific comments regarding the biological resources of this area.

While we are pleased with the boundary selections for the Ten Lakes Wilderness, we object to the inclusion of S-393 study areas in this bill which we believe should pertain only to RARE II lands and we, therefore, recommend that the Ten Lakes Wilderness be established through separate legislation.

If the Bill treats the North End relatively well, unfortunately, by contrast, its consideration of the Northern Swan Range from Columbia Mountain to Six-Mile Mountain, including the now famous Jewel Basin Hiking Area , is greatly lacking.

Living, as my family and I do, at the foot of Blaine Mt. in the heart of the Northern Swans, we have both a familiarity with and personal bias towards proper management of this area.

The Swan Range forms a spectacular backdrop for the Flathead Valley and while it is a geologic unit separate from the Mission Range, which borders the east side of Flathead Lake, the two together are the dominant scenic and physiographic features of the area. The Swan Range is to our valley, scenically and economically, what the Tetons are to Jackson Hole. Along with family and friends, ranging from youngsters to senior citizens, I have hiked the length of the crest, visited many of its 50 lakes and as a sightseer and geologist I have marvelled at the regional panoramic vistas offered from its perspective.

The Swan Crest is one of those unique environments that contain all the classic aspects we have come to associate with wilderness, such as solitude, physical beauty, wildlife, and watershed protection, but it also enables us to view from a wilderness sanctuary our more usual environment, the urban centers and rural lands below. From a perch atop the Crest, one senses in the same sweep both the significance and insignificance of our human interaction with the land. Ranging from the peaks of Glacier National Park to the north; the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas to the east and south; the Swan Valley, Mission Range, and Flathead Lake to the south; the beautiful Flathead Valley to the west and Whitefish Range to the north, one has a contrast of views rarely afforded to earthbound observers. Within a few steps, however, one can withdraw into a wilderness setting as rich and complete as any in Montana.

On February 9, 1978 prior to the passage of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978, Morris Udall lucidly clarified the compatibility of wilderness and populated areas, as in the Pusch Ridge, Sandia and Lone Peak Wilderness Areas. One of the principal authors of the Wilderness Act, Howard Zahniser, believed that it was time for Americans to stop thinking of wilderness and civilization as incompatible. I believe he was right, and that this is an appropriate time to recognize these last remaining resources of wilderness whether they be in upper mountain altitudes or in our back yards.

The outstanding attributes of the Swan Range have long been recognized by resident and visitor alike. The Jewel Basin, which forms the core of the Swan Crest Wilderness proposal, so impressed the Rev. Eugene Milne Cosgrove of Helena, MT after visiting the area in 1919, that he selected it as the subject for his sermon at the First Unitarian Church on Sept. 14th of that year. "But for the kaleidoscopic lights and shadows," he preached, "for octaves of tone and color, for stupendous vistas, and the unending variety of the moods and forms of Nature, Jewel Basin is, to the vision of my experience, the most charmed and charming spot in all the world." Rev. Cosgrove's words are as true today as they were 65 years ago.

Bob Marshall also hiked in the Basin in 1928 and conservationists have worked for protection of the area since the mid-1950's. The Alternative W proposal has been endorsed locally by the Bigfork and Swan Lake Chambers of Commerce. Testimony at the Senate Hearing in Missoula last year heavily favored wilderness designation. Potential timber conflicts involve less than nine percent of the area, involve the least productive lands, and would not affect scheduled timber harvest on the Flathead Forest for the next 20 years. Hard rock mining prospects do not exist. Oil and gas potential is highly speculative at best and, in addition, the acreage involved is insignificant in comparison to the more than 1 million acres presently leased on the Flathead Forest. Recreation conflicts are limited to an insignificant amount of ORV use in the Columbia Mountain region. The proposed boundary has been ground-truthed, checked against Forest Service maps and data. It conforms to cultural, ecological, and topograhical features, and is logical and manageable.

With respect to Jewel Basin, we emphasize that during the 1960's the Flathead National Forest twice recommended the area for wilderness. The land has not changed since that time. In addition, Governor Schwinden's Wilderness Recommendation of May 10, 1984 also recommended the area for wilderness designation.

Although we appreciate the Montana delegation's effort to protect Jewel Basin through the special management language of Section 10(a-c), we submit that this is no substitute for wilderness designation. In particular, we object to S-2850's defining Jewel Basin as providing "...opportunities for recreation experiences on a level between that found in wilderness and areas accessible by roads." That definition is arbitrary and does not fit the perception of the present users of the area.

Jewel Basin _is_ wilderness, and thousands upon thousands of Montanans are counting on you, our representatives in Congress, to extend the protection of the Wilderness Act to both Jewel Basin and the rest of the Northern Swan Crest, which in all respects form a single, geological, physical, and biological unit, with strong local support and no significant conflicts. Under wilderness protection these areas will form a priceless legacy for the future of our area.

STATEMENT OF PATTY BUSKO, PRESIDENT, WILDLANDS AND RESOURCES ASSOCIATION, GREAT FALLS, MT

Ms. BUSKO. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Patty Busko. I am president of Wildland and Resources Association. I am also a fourth generation Montanan, born and raised in the Great Falls area and educated in Montana. I am the mother of two daughters and a registered nurse in clinical psychiatry.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present views on behalf of WRA. WRA represents a group of conservation minded people from Great Falls and the surrounding areas. Until yesterday, I had never been farther east than Miles City. I never felt the need to before until this wilderness bill. Now, that I am here in Washington, DC, I know even more now why it is important to preserve our Montana lands.

I am also glad I am here, because I feel encouraged today, after hearing both you and Senator Melcher, assuring us that you want a Montana wilderness bill that will best preserve our Montana lands, our heritage and our way of living. Wildlands and Resources Association wants to again confirm its support for all of the alternatives of W wilderness lands with emphasis on the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek Wilderness and the proposed wilderness additions along the Rocky Mountain Front.

The Tenderfoot-Deep Creek Wilderness is on the northeast corner of the Little Belt Mountains, about 30 miles from Great Falls. According to the Forest Service, the natural integrity and appearance of the area is high. The area offers high quality backpacking, backcountry horse use, fishing, big game hunting, and cross-country skiing. Float trips on the Smith River draw floaters from around the United States who come to enjoy its remoteness as well as its spectacular limestone canyons.

The area's important habitat for such species as elk, deer, moose, black bear, and grouse, as well as fisheries for rainbow, brook, cutthroat, and brown trout. The area has low potential for any industry development.

We believe the integrity of this area needs to be preserved as it is, which wilderness designation alone can do.

In addition to these views on the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek, we also have deep concerns about the S. 2850 proposal for the Rocky Mountain Front. We are aware that you have information on the importance of looking at the Rocky Mountain Front as part of the total Bob Marshall ecosystem. Alternative W boundary positions reflect a recognition and preservation of this vital ecosystem. Vital in terms of wildlife values and vital in terms of preserving a stable tourist/recreation economy.

We believe there is no polarity between economic interests and environment. The quality of our environment, air, water, land, and wildlife in the Great Falls area has had and continues to have primary economic value. It is only reasonable and right that long-term gain and quality of life in Montana be an integral part of the outcome of our wilderness bill.

We do not think that the possibility of oil and the demands of big oil companies are reason enough to justify the mere addition of 38,500 acres in the Deep Creek and Falls Creek areas and the complete release of unroaded wilderness in Deep Creek, Choteau Mountain, Teton Ridgh, High Peaks, and Renshaw Mountain ecosystems.

The special management designation is unacceptable to us. The reason for this unacceptability is the long-term effect of access by roads which special management designation would permit. Roading would increase pressures on wildlife and the habitat. Poaching of wildlife, especially the grizzly bear, which is protected by the Rare and Endangered Species Act, historically increases in areas that have roads.

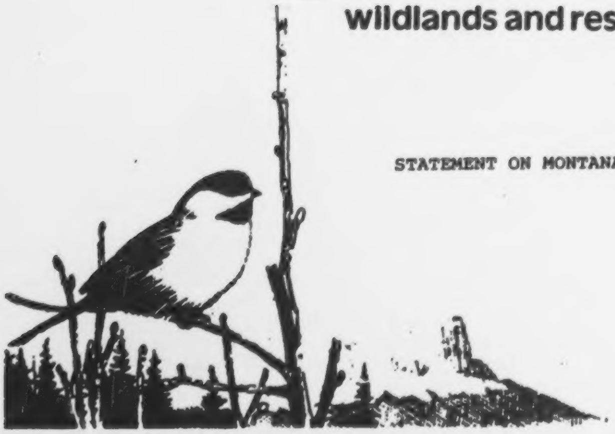
I believe that I cannot adequately address all the issues as they deserve to be in 3 minutes. I also believe you already have a storehouse of detailed information on the long-term impact development would have on our lands and people.

In closing, we urge you to designate the alternate W lands for the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek and the Rocky Mountain Front as wilderness. Please enter our more indepth written statement as part of the official record.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Busko follows:]

wildlands and resources association



STATEMENT ON MONTANA WILDERNESS BILL S2850

August 9, 1984

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Public Lands Subcommittee

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Patty Busko, President of Wildland and Resources Association. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present views on behalf of Wildlands and Resources Association concerning Senate Bill S2850 and the future of Montana wilderness lands. WRA represents a group of conservation-minded people from Great Falls and the surrounding areas. The major issue we wish to address is the discrepancy between the Alternative W recommended wilderness lands and the recommended, or lack of recommended, lands in S2850, with emphasis on the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek Wilderness area and the proposed wilderness additions along the Rocky Mountain Front.

Stated simply, we find S2850 to be unacceptable in promoting the best interests of our Montana lands. The lands we are discussing are wilderness lands -- they just haven't received official Congressional designation as such. Congressional wilderness designation would preserve their natural resources for the future enjoyment of Montanans in Central Montana and the surrounding areas. We feel these lands are a valuable and viable, essential economic resources in tourist trade for the Great Falls area. A trade that has steadfastly upheld the economy, along with agriculture interests, in times in what has amounted to false promise, betrayal and abandonment by the mineral industry.

The point is -- there is no real polarity between economic interests and environment. The quality of our environment, air, water, land and wildlife in the Great Falls area has had and continues to have primary economic value. It is only reasonable and right that long term gain and quality of life in Montana be an integral part of the outcome of our wilderness bill.

We reject the premise that industry values are somehow more people-oriented than agricultural/recreational/environmental values. It is unfortunate that a polarity exists between industrial and environmental rhetoric, when in fact the fate of these lands and the fate of mankind from an economic, biological and ecological standpoint are intricately connected.

The same goes for the recently raised issue of eliteness of the hardcore wilderness concerns [redacted] "as opposed" to the concerns of the common recreationalist -- would that the simplicity of that thinking reflect the truth of the issue. In fact, wilderness concerns embrace more far-reaching priority life issues than short-sighted industry-related economic concerns. While the average worker may feel temporarily threatened at the limiting of industry adventures in these areas, in the long run the survival of the air he breathes and the space he has to recreate in depends on their very existence.

We wish to specifically address the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek area. This area is one of the Alternative W recommended wilderness additions that has been completely deleted in S2850. The Tenderfoot-Deep Creek Wilderness is on the northwest corner of the Little Belt Mountains, about 30 air-miles south of Great Falls. The wild and beautiful Smith River forms the western boundary. As the largest roadless area in the Little Belts, Tenderfoot-Deep Creek is known for the 25-mile Deep Creek Loop National Recreation Trail, a series of 20-30 foot waterfalls on Tenderfoot Creek, and the spectacular limestone canyon of the Smith River.

According to the Forest Service, the "natural integrity and appearance of the area is high". The large size, remoteness, and rugged topography offer outstanding opportunities for solitude. About 25 miles of the 60-mile wild river float trip on the Smith River is within the proposed wilderness. The area also offers high quality backpacking, backcountry horse use, fishing, and big game hunting. As such, primitive recreation opportunities are also outstanding.

Nearly half of the area is noncommercial forest land, with much of the remainder being marginal for timber production, due to shallow soils, steep slopes, remoteness, and poor growing sites. Only about 800 cattle graze annually in the area. This use would continue unimpaired under wilderness designation. Tenderfoot-Deep Creek provides important habitat for elk, deer, moose, black bear, grouse, a variety of nongame species as well as superb fisheries for rainbow, brook, cutthroat and brown trout. The proposed wilderness has little or no potential for oil and gas. Historically, the hardrock mining activity has occurred outside the area.

The proposed wilderness boundaries follow topographical or cultural features and national forest boundaries. Boundary adjustments are offered that would exclude the proposed Williams Mountain timber sale on the southeast edge of the area and a low standard four-wheel drive trail which extends from the east about two miles west of Monument Peak.

We believe the integrity of this area needs to be preserved as it is -- which wilderness designation alone can do.

In addition to these views on the Tenderfoot-Deep Creek, we also have deep concerns about the S2850 proposal for the Rocky Mountain Front. We are dismayed by the inadequate recommendations, or lack thereof, for the defacto wilderness lands along the Front. We are aware that time and time again you have been informed of the importance of looking at the Rocky Mountain Front as a part of the total Bob Marshall ecosystem. Alternative W boundary positions reflect a recognition and preservation of this vital ecosystem. Vital in terms of wildlife values, and vital in terms of preserving a stable tourist/recreation economy. It is mysterious to us why in the face of scientific evidence, you have virtually ignored the preservation of this ecosystem, ignored the fate of grizzlies, mountain goats and other wildlife and the long-term consequences of that loss on constituents of this area.

We do not think that the possibility of oil and the demands of big oil companies are reason enough to justify the mere addition of 38,500 acres in the Deep Creek and Falls Creek areas and the complete release of unroaded wilderness areas in Deep Creek, Choteau Mountain, Teton Ridge High Peaks and Renshaw Mountain ecosystems. The Special Management designation is totally unacceptable to us. The reason for this unacceptibility is the long-term effect of access by roads which Special Management designation would permit. Roading would increase the pressures on these areas in terms of poaching of wildlife - especially the Grizzly Bear, which is protected under the Rare and Endangered Species Act.

The fate of these lands rests with the stroke of your pen. Yes, you could release these lands from ever being considered wilderness again. You could do this in the name of "economic wellbeing for all of Eastern Montana," but what in fact you would be doing is selling our lives and livelihood to "industry." Yes, Great Falls would experience an economic "boom" if the Rocky Mountain Front were to become a fully developed oil field. Some businesses in the area would realize an immediate and large profit from the influx of money and people. But what happens to us when the majority of these people leave, when the main phases of development are over, say 5-10-15 years from now. We will still be paying for the new schools, roads, sewers, etc. that it takes to accommodate new people. We don't want to have to deal with these long term problems just so a few can get rich today.

In the aftermath of the development, we will be left to try to painstakingly rebuild our old, stable way of life. But how will we be able to do that when the lands that our recreation, tourism and agriculture economy is based on are gone? Once these areas are developed, gone forever are the wildlife, clear streams and beautiful, unroaded areas.

In closing, we urge you to designate the Alternative W recommended lands for Tenderfoot-Deep Creek and the Rocky Mountain Front as wilderness.

Thank you.

Patty Busko

Patty Busko
President
Wildlands and Resources Association

Senator **Hecht** [presiding]. Thank you very much. I should introduce myself to all of you. I am from Nevada and therefore a westerner too, so I am very interested in your bill also.

Cary Lund please.

STATEMENT OF CARY LUND, MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL, HELENA, MT

Mr. **Lund**. Thank you. Today I am here as a representative of the Montana Audubon Council and a member of the council and also president of the Last Chance Audubon Society of Helena in Montana. The Montana Audubon Council is a council of representatives from the nine Audubon Societies located in Montana and as such is representative of the common interests and concerns of the approximately 2500 individual and family Audubon members in the State of Montana. The current president of the council is Harriet Marble of Chester.

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity you have provided us today and would note that our members and our officers have to me indicated that they would desire to have further field hearings in Montana, so that they can personally have the opportunity to speak to the subcommittee on this matter.

I will preface my testimony by noting that we at Audubon in Montana have found S. 2850 as currently constituted to be an unacceptable piece of legislation. We would hope that should a significant redrafting of this bill occur the subcommittee would seriously consider our testimony in that process.

Of particular note, we do not want to see section 4 and section 15 concerning the deletion of Goose Lake from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and the elimination of the consideration of the Bitter Creek Wilderness study area. We oppose those two provisions of the bill.

When the Audubon Montana Council chose or joined in the effort for a comprehensive bill to designate wilderness areas in Montana, we were pleased with the balanced approach that we found in the wildlands coalition's alternative W. We felt that their proposal was reasonable in relation to the amount of acreage identified through the RARE II process. We also feel that legitimate recreational needs and other resource needs were not compromised by alternative W.

We did not view alternative W as being radical; instead, we were pleased with its compromise nature. We are concerned about the lack of certain areas and the limited acreage which is encompassed by S. 2850, and we would hope that the committee would consider adding some of the other areas or the areas left out that were expressed in alternative W.

Specifically, we believe that lack of protection for such areas as the Crazies, Mount Baldy, the Rocky Mountain Front, the Gallatin Range, and West Big Hole as would be the result of S. 2850 cannot be the legacy of this legislative effort. We believe that more time and effort must be expended by this committee in studying such areas.

We at Audubon do not feel that we are involved in this effort just because of the recreational values at issue. Our perspective is broad. We are primarily concerned for the integrity of plant and wildlife communities which have significant value for all people. Not many of our members are ardent wilderness recreationists. Our support for wilderness protection is scientific in nature.

We are concerned that the issue as to how much wilderness there should be designated in Montana has seemingly become characterized as wilderness recreationists versus vehicular recreationists. Wilderness, as I have previously stated, has other values. Those other values are as significant as recreation and from a scientific and social perspective that serve all people.

We would hope that we at Audubon can serve to bring those other values into perspective during the resolution of the wilderness issue in Montana.

Many of our members have extensive knowledge on the value of the natural communities, which we feel deserve protection by designation as wilderness. We would ask that if the subcommittee should be interested in obtaining more information on specific areas that you contact us. We would willingly assist in whatever ways we can.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Lund follows:]

MONTANA AUDUBON COUNCIL

Testimony of the Montana Audubon Council concerning S. 2850, The Montana Wilderness Bill, presented to the Senate Public Lands Subcommittee on August 9, 1984. The testimony is presented by Cary B. Lund, a Council member and President of the Last Chance Audubon Society.

The Montana Audubon Council is a council of representatives from the nine Audubon societies located in Montana and as such is representative of the common interests and concerns of the approximately 2500 individual and family Audubon members in the State of Montana. The current President of the Council is Harriet Marble of Chester.

As the representative of the Montana Audubon Council at this Congressional hearing, I would like to thank the subcommittee for providing this opportunity to us by which we can express our views. It is the hope of the Council that the subcommittee will conduct field hearings in Montana at a convenient time in the future so that our individual members and various officers could present their concerns about the specifics of S. 2850 and about areas not addressed in that bill.

I will preface my testimony by noting that we have found S. 2850 as currently constituted to be an unacceptable piece of legislation. We would hope that should a significant redrafting of this bill occur the subcommittee would seriously consider our testimony in that process.

S. 2850 contains certain provisions which we feel are unwarranted in this type of legislation. Section 4 of the bill provides for the deletion of 1,700 acres from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. We oppose that sort of provision. The area at issue was thoroughly discussed at hearings on that wilderness proposal and the boundary was drawn purposely to include the area. The Goose Lake area is a sensitive high alpine area which is a principle trail corridor for recreationists entering the high peaks and Grasshopper Glacier area of the Beartooth. Its visual and botanical integrity should not be destroyed. The language of Section 15 deletes the Bitter Creek Wilderness Study Area from further consideration for wilderness status. That Bureau of Land Management area represents an area of short grass prairie which is rapidly disappearing. We of Audubon feel it is imperative that such vital bird nesting habitat not be lost to indiscreet management in this era of sodbusting.

The utilization in S. 2850 of various designations such as "Wildlife", "Scenic", "Recreation" and "Special Management" is confusing given the varying provisions and language. Conceptually, this disparity detracts from existing legislation. We would note that if such concepts were to be implemented the implementation should not be piecemeal as is the approach in S. 2850. Such concepts should receive full consideration by the public and the Congress through legislation having universal application and definition. We oppose the provision of S. 2850 which would create such ildefined areas.

When the Montana Audubon Council choose to join in the effort to support the effort for a comprehensive bill to designate wilderness areas in Montana, we were pleased with the balanced approach that the Wildlands Coalition had taken in setting forth Alternative W. We found Alternative W to be reasonable in relation to the amount of acreage identified through the RARE II process to be unroaded. We felt that legitimate recreational needs and other resource needs were not compromised by Alternative W. We did not view Alternative W as being radical; instead we were pleased with its compromise nature. The areas and acreage encompassed by S. 2850 was a real shock to us. It lacks balance and threatens to allow far too much detrimental management and use to occur in areas which we know to valuable habitats in terms of wildlife and plant communities. We continue to support Alternative W as a reasonable expression of areas in the State of Montana that should continue to be left to natural dynamics rather than to man induced processes.

Specifically, we believe that lack of protection for such areas as the Crazies, Mount Baldy, the Rocky Mountain Front, the Gallatin Range, and the West Big Hole as would be the result of S. 2850 can not be the legacy of this legislative effort. We believe that more time and effort must be expended by this committee in studying such areas. The outrage we have noted among our members and the public at the lack of those areas in S. 2850 shows that further onsideration must be given. The Montana press has generally reflected this outrage.

We of Audubon do not feel that we are involved in this effort just because of the recreational values at issue. Our perspective is broad. We are primarily concerned for the integrity of plant and wildlife communities which have significant value for all people. Not many of our members are ardent wilderness recreationists. Our support for wilderness protection is scientific in nature. We are concerned that the issue as to how much wilderness there should be designated in Montana has seemingly become characterized as wilderness recreationists versus vehicular recreationists. Wilderness, as I have previously stated, has other values. Those other values are as significant as recreation and from a scientific and social perspective serve all people. We would hope that we of Audubon can serve to bring those other values into perspective during the resolution of the wilderness issue in Montana.

Many of our members have extensive knowledge on the value of the natural communities which we feel deserve protection by designation of those areas as wilderness. We would ask that if the subcommittee should be interested in obtaining more information on specific areas that you contact us. We would willingly assist in whatever ways we can.

STATEMENT OF KEN KNUDSON, MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION, HELENA, MT

Mr. **Knudson**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senator Melcher and Senator Baucus. My name is Ken Knudson. I am here today representing the 4,000 members of the Montana Wildlife Federation.

The Montana Wildlife Federation is proud and protective of the vast wildlife populations of our State. Nowhere else but Montana in the lower 48 States will you find such large and diverse populations of wildland-dependent species, like elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, and grizzly bear.

Even as recently as a few years ago, however, the Montana Wildlife Federation too often took for granted the wildland resource that is so vital for the perpetuation of these animals. We were not noticeably vocal during the RARE II hearings or other phases of the wilderness discussions of the past decade. Then came the RARE II final decision and later in 1983, the RARE II reevaluation.

The results were startling. In just 4 short years, from 1979 to 1983, the U.S. Forest Service in Montana actually accessed with roads as many acres as it was proposing under the RARE II for wilderness management.

Under your questioning Mr. Peterson this morning, Senator Baucus, it is disturbing to us to think that they are going to accelerate this rate of road building which is already at 125,000 to 150,000 acres per year in Montana.

As a result of this obvious bias against wildland protection, which was confirmed by the ninth circuit court of appeals ruling against the entire RARE II process, the Montana Wildlife Federation took a leading role in the formulation of alternative W.

The formulation of this Montana conservationist wilderness proposal, which calls for less than a third of Montana's remaining wildlands be designated as wilderness, was a difficult, trying task. From a wildlife point of view, all of the remaining roadless areas are vital. We did and still recognize, however, that we live in a pluralistic society and that other competitive interests should and must be considered.

In alternative W, we therefore tried to select those areas that not only have the highest wildlife, watershed and nonmotorized recreational value, but also as a nearly equal consideration, those areas that contained the least valuable resource extraction potential. We formally presented this position to the congressional delegation at the field hearings that were held last July in Montana.

Then, in an effort to help resolve the RARE II controversy during this session of Congress, we further adjusted alternative W in a letter to the Montana delegation dated June 8, 1984.

Throughout this time, we feel that we have compromised, prioritized and tried to consider the needs and desires of competitive interests. These other interests, however, have rarely reciprocated. Never have we seen an industry proposal that even attempts to prioritize the one-third, the one-half or even three-quarters of Montana's remaining wildlands that they judge to have the highest timber, mining or oil and gas values.

And I think this is what Senator Baucus has been working on today, and we really feel that if we are going to get any progress on the Montana wilderness bill that some sort of prioritization of each industry's needs has to be made.

There is a rapidly growing sentiment among persons on the streets in Montana, as has been clearly evident during the past few weeks that this sort of industry stonewalling of the process is totally unethical. There is going to be a Montana wilderness bill, which will hopefully strike a fair and acceptable balance between opposite points of view.

We feel that if industry truly wants to be a part of this decision, they should sit down and make the hard choices that the Montana conservation community has had to do during the past several months. To do otherwise only places an unjust and unfair burden on the Montana delegation and the rest of Congress.

With positive and constructive changes, we in the Montana Wildlife Federation are optimistic that the wilderness issue can still be resolved in the near future. The resolution of this issue can be accelerated if industry comes forth with proposals that prioritize their interests, proposals that advocate rather than stalemate the spirit of compromise and fair play, which is the standard of Montana politics.

I would also like to just briefly bring to the attention of this committee a very special area that has yet not been included in S. 2850. This is the Keybian Silk Ox area, a wildland adjoining the town of Thompson Falls. This 40,000-acre roadless area is in the core of a very critical wildlife area in the southern Cabinet Mountains. It supports the largest population of bighorn sheep in Montana outside of the Bob Marshall Rocky Mountain Front complex and is, therefore, in critical need of protection and recognition in S. 2850.

We also strongly support the Electric Peak Wilderness addition, primarily because of its extremely high value as an elk security area.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Knudson follows:]

TESTIMONY OF THE MONTANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE PUBLIC LANDS SUBCOMMITTEE
OF
THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
WASHINGTON D.C.
AUGUST 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee:

My name is Ken Knudson, here today representing the nearly 4,000 members of the Montana Wildlife Federation. I am also a member of the Steering Committee of the Montana Wildlands Coalition, an alliance of 45 Montana conservation organizations with a combined membership of approximately 10,000 National Forest users. Both of these entities advocate that 1.9 million acres of presently roadless lands be designated as wilderness (the "Alternative W" proposal).

The Montana Wildlife Federation is proud and protective of the vast wildlife populations of our state. No where else but Montana in the lower 48 states will you find such large and diverse populations of wildland-dependent species like elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and grizzly bear.

Even as recently as a few years ago, however, the Montana Wildlife Federation too often took for granted the wildland resource that is so vital for the perpetuation of these animals. We were not noticeably vocal during the RARE II hearings or other phases of the wilderness discussions of the past decade. Then came the RAREII final decision and later in 1983, the RARE II reevaluation. The data and decisions within these documents magnified our awareness of the vanishing nature of Montana's wildlands. In just four short years, from 1979-1983, the U.S. Forest Service in Montana actually accessed with roads as many acres as it was proposing under RARE II for wilderness management. As a result of this obvious bias against wildland protection, which was confirmed by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling against the entire RARE II process, the Montana Wildlife Federation came to the forefront of the major conservation groups in Montana by taking a leading role in the formulation of Alternative W. Later in October 1983, when the Montana Wildlands Coalition was formed, our organization's president became the Chairmen of this broad-based conservation alliance.

The formulation of Alternative W, which calls for less than one third of Montana's remaining wildlands to be designated as wilderness, was a difficult and trying task. From a wildlife point of view, all of the remaining roadless lands are vital. We did and still recognize, however, that we live in a pluralistic society and that other competitive interests should and must be considered. In Alternative W we therefore tried to select those areas that not only have the highest wildlife, watershed and non-motorized recreational values, but also as a nearly equal consideration, we also tried to select those areas that contain the least valuable resource extraction potential.

We formally presented this position to the Montana Congressional Delegation at the field hearings that were held in Montana last July. Then, in an effort to help resolve the RARE II controversy during this session of Congress, we further adjusted Alternative W in a letter to the Montana Delegation dated June 8, 1984 (copy attached). Throughout this time, we feel that we have compromised, prioritized and tried to consider the needs and interests of competitive interests. These other interests, however, have rarely reciprocated. Never have we seen an industry proposal that even attempts to prioritize the one third, one half or even three quarters of Montana's remaining wildlands that they judge to have the highest timber, mining, or oil and gas values. With very few exceptions the resource extraction industry's position has instead been uncompromising.

There is a rapidly growing sentiment among persons on the street in Montana, as has been clearly evident during the past few weeks that this sort of industry stonewalling of the process is totally unethical and illogical. There is going to be a Montana Wilderness Bill which hopefully will strike a fair and acceptable balance between opposite points of view. We feel that if industry truly wants to be a part of this decision, they should sit down and make the hard choices that the Montana conservation community has had to make during the past several months. To do otherwise only places an unjust and unfair burden on the Montana Delegation and the rest of Congress.

The Montana Wildlife Federation feels that SB2850 is not acceptable in its present form. There are certainly more wild areas that need to be included as wilderness. This bill should also only address RARE II lands and not SB393 areas. Furthermore, there needs to be a hold or "future option" category for the wild areas that, due to a lack of sufficient information should not be classified or released during this session of Congress.

With these kinds of constructive changes, we in the Montana Wildlife Federation are optimistic that the wilderness issue can still be resolved in the near future. The resolution of this issue can be accelerated if industry comes forth with proposals that prioritize their interests; proposals that advocate rather than stalemate the spirit of compromise and fair play which is the standard of Montana politics. Let's get on with the construction of a Montana Wilderness Bill that we all can be proud of.

Respectfully submitted for the record by:

Ken Knudson

Ken Knudson

montana wildlands coalition

Senator John Melcher
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

JUNE, 8, 1984

Dear Senator ~~Melcher~~ John,

The Montana Wildlands Coalition is pleased to submit this 1984 Conservation Alternative as a recommendation for Wilderness legislation in this 1984 Session.

Our proposal deals only with National Forest RARE II areas and resolution of the RARE II issue. Recommendations regarding the Montana Wilderness Study Areas and Bureau of Land Management lands are not included because the study processes on those lands have not been completed. The single exception in our proposal is the Pryor Mountains area on the Custer National Forest. Because (1) the BLM and National Park Service lands adjacent to the Forest Service's Lost Canyon RARE II area are such an integral part of this area, and (2) the area has little or no opposition, we feel that an exception is warranted in this case.

The Coalition believes that the short time remaining in the 1984 Session virtually precludes developing a bill addressing all roadless areas. For that reason we are proposing that some areas be placed in a "Hold" or "Reserved for further study" category. Thus we suggest that any Montana Wilderness legislation provide for three categories:

1. Areas designated as Wilderness under the 1964 Wilderness Act;
2. Areas placed on "Hold" and reserved for further study;
3. Areas released for management as prescribed in Forest Plans under "standard release" provisions.

We have recommended that two types of RARE II areas be included in the "Hold" category. The first are areas conservationists have been advocating for Wilderness as part of the 1979 Alternative W. The MWC believes that these areas have unquestionable wilderness qualities and should be designated as Wilderness. However, because of situations such as private in-holdings or uncertain boundary locations, we feel more time is needed for completing possible land exchanges or conducting boundary studies (or negotiations) to develop more definitive boundaries.

The second type of RARE II areas recommended for "Hold" are areas conservationists have not advocated for Wilderness in the past. We are not necessarily advocating these areas for designation, but we believe that they have wilderness qualities and warrant "another look" by everyone, including ourselves. Even if Wilderness designation is not deemed appropriate, you and the other members of the Delegation may wish to recommend to the Forest Service that special management practices be implemented .

We emphasize that areas in the "Hold" category be legislatively protected from non-Wilderness intrusion or management activities until Congress has made a final allocation decision. Bills could be introduced in the 1985 or subsequent sessions of Congress to designate areas as Wilderness or release them for management under the Forest Planning process.

I have enclosed a list in which all RARE II areas are recommended for inclusion in one of the three categories. Along with the listing, I am enclosing maps which show changes in boundaries for a number of areas. We are proposing compromises from Alternative W to resolve potential mineral conflicts (Scotchman Peaks and East Pioneers), and to accomodate snowmobiling (Storm Lake, Flints and Republic Mountain). Five boundary adjustments to improve resource management and protection would increase the acreage of five areas over that proposed in Alternative W (Italian Peaks, Mt. Baldy, Trout Creek, Cabinet Additions, and the North Big Hole addition to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness).

The 1984 Conservation Alternative represents a determined effort to accomodate interests of the resource industries and users of off-road vehicles, such as snowmobiles. Wherever possible we have attempted to make boundary adjustments to avoid commercial timber stands, mining claims, known mineral deposits, known high oil and gas potential and major snowmobile trails. In a number of cases, the boundary adjustments were made in response to information generated in the industry-conservation (RARE 8) discussions.

We have attempted to avoid productive timber sites. The MWC proposal includes a minimum of economically harvestable commercial timber. We believe that the future of the Montana t.mber industry would not be affected under the 84 Conservation Alternative.

Recognizing that the minerals and petroleum industries might be those industries most affected by Wilderness designations, the MWC tried to assure the long term economic vitality of those industries by eliminating known important deposts or reserves from our proposals for Wilderness. Unfortunately, the data available to the public regarding mineral, oil and gas reserves or potential is so incomplete that it is very difficult to identify and avoid conflicts.

The Montana Wildlands Coalition believes that the 84 Conservation Alternative will have virtually no effect on the livestock industry -- an industry we recognize is vital to our state. First, the 1964 Wilderness Act guarantees continuation of existing grazing and grazing practices (ironically, it is the only statutory guarantee of continued grazing privileges on federal lands).

Second, most of the areas proposed for Wilderness, or recommended for further study under the "Hold" category, are among the least productive grazing lands in Montana, and their designation as Wilderness simply will not impact the future economics of the livestock industry.

The Montana Wildlands Coalition has successfully served as a focal point for the myriad of Montana conservationists and in unifying their opinions regarding Wilderness. MWC's 84 Conservation Alternative is our best effort to present a realistic proposal for 1984 legislation. We respectfully ask that you give this proposal careful and serious consideration as you develop a Montana Wilderness bill for 1984.

I also make two additional requests. First, I will be in Washington D.C. June 16-20, and I would like to meet with you personally to discuss this proposal and answer any questions you may have. Second, members of the Montana Wildlands Coalition would like to meet with you during the July recess if we can set up a meeting in Montana.

Sincerely,

Jim E Richard

JIM E RICHARD, Chairman
Box 820
East Helena, MT 59635

MONTANA WILDLANDS COALITION

WILDERNESS (*indicates proposed boundary changes from original submission of the conservationist statewide wilderness proposal at the RARE II Hearings, July, 1983)

BEAVERHEAD FOREST:

1.*Italian Peaks (50,680 acres--boundary recalculation)
2.*North Big Hole Addition to Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness (35,840 acres--includes 2,840 acres in upper Balsam Creek in Bitterroot Forest)
3.*East Pioneers (80,000 acres--boundary adjustment to accommodate AMOCO mining claims in northern portion of proposed Wilderness)
4. West Big Hole (86,000 acres)

BITTERROOT FOREST:

1. Stony Mountain (100,000 acres, 43,965 of which are on the Bitterroot Forest with the remainder being on the Lolo and Deerlodge Forests)
2. Additions to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness (4,740 acres--Swift, Needle and Balsam Creeks)
3. Bitterroot Canyons (30,200 acres)
4. Meadow Creek (12,600 acres)
5. Trapper Creek (2,500 acres)
6. Nelson Lake (2,900 acres)

CUSTER FOREST:

1. Lost Water Canyon (9,800 acres plus contiguous BLM and NPS Wilderness Study Areas for a total Pryor Mountains Wilderness Complex proposal of 36,908 acres)

FLATHEAD FOREST:

1. North Fork (61,500 acres--Mt. Hefty, Thompson-Seton and Tuchuck)
2. Swan Crest/Jewel (63,300 acres)
3. Swan Front (92,400 acres-includes 10,000 acres on the Lolo Forest)

DEERLODGE FOREST:

1. Upper East Fork Addition to Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness (5,000 acres)
2.*Storm Lake Addition to Anconda-Pintler Wilderness (8,600 acres--proposed boundary adjustment would exclude about 4,000 acres in north end because of private land and ORV uses)
3.*Flint Creek Range (59,700 acres-proposed deletion of about 1,000 acres in Indian Meadows to accommodate late season snowmobile use)
4. Stony Mountain (22,915 acres on Deerlodge Forest portion of area)
5. Electric Peak (18,550 acres on Deerlodge Forest portion of area)

GALLATIN FOREST:

1. Lionhead (26,500 acres)
2.*Republic Mountain (480 acres-acceptance of industry-agreed boundary with a 220 acre deletion)

HELENA FOREST:

1. Electric Peak (46,028 acres; 27,478 of which are on the Helena Forest)
2.*Lazyman Gulch (12,700 acres--approved by MT Wildlands Coalition 2/4/84)
3. Nevada Mountain (50,371 acres)
4. Camas Creek (29,510 acres)
5.*Mt. Baldy (14,600 acres--proposed boundary adjustment on north end to accommodate Gipsy Lake road)
6. Big Log/Holter additions to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness (9,974 acres)
7. Silverking/Falls Creek addition to the Scapegoat Wilderness (10,000 acres on Helena Forest)

KOOTENAI FOREST:

1.*Scotchman Peaks (60,000 acres--negotiated boundary adjustment between MWC and ASARCO jointly proposed and hand delivered to the Delegation on May 2, 1984; map sent under previous cover)
2.*Cabinet Wilderness Additions (33,000 acres-includes 17,357 acres in the Cabinet Face East area)
3.*Trout Creek (33,000 acres-recommends inclusion of low standard Granite Creek mining vehicle way to enhance wilderness manageability and protect resource values)

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3.*Trout Creek (33,000 acres-recommends inclusion of low standard Granite Creek mining vehicle way to enhance wilderness manageability and protect resource values)

HOLD (continued)

LEWIS & CLARK FOREST:
1. Pilgrim Creek (49,500 acres)
2. Castles (29,600 acres)
3. Highwoods (24,100 acres)
4. Highwood Baldy (15,600 acres)
5. Badger-Two Medicine (102,100 acres)
6. Sawtooth (15,500 acres)
7.*Tenderfoot/Deep Creek (87,000 acres--time is needed for land adjustment on western portion of area)

SUBTOTAL: 957,859 acres

RELEASE

BEAVERHEAD FOREST:
1. North Big Hole (20,252 acres)
2. Beaver Lake (12,193 acres)
3. Saginaw Creek (9,189 acres)
4. West Pioneers (118,477 acres)
5. East Pioneers (66,301 acres)
6. Call Mtn. (8,912 acres)
7. Cattle Gulch (19,441 acres)
8. Fleecer (16,008 acres)
9. Granulated Mtn. (15,014 acres)
10. Tobacco Roots (39,426 acres)
11. Potosi (5,505 acres)
12. Bear Creek (8,300 acres)
13. McKenzie Canyon (34,167 acres)
14. Sourdough Pk (14,844 acres)
15. Timber Butte (5,320 acres)
16. Dixon Mountain (3,989 acres)
17. Four Eyes Canyon (7,389 acres)
18. Sheep Mtn (32,655 acres)
19. Crockett Lake (6,828 acres)
20. Cherry Lakes (15,086 acres)
21. Vigilante (14,207 acres)
22. Black Butte (39,580 acres)
23. Big Horn Mtn (50,217 acres)
24. Lone Butte (14,190 acres)
25. Freezeout Mtn (97,616 acres)
26. Anderson Mtn (30,897 acres)
27. West Big Hole (42,682 acres)
28. Goat Mtn (9,454 acres)
29. Italian Peak (40,322 acres)
30. Storm Lake (953 acres)

BITTERROOT FOREST:
1. North Big Hole (460 acres)
2. Selway-Bitterroot (62,400 acres)
3. Mill Creek (15,300 acres)
4. Allan Mtn (102,300 acres)
5. Tolan Creek (7,100 acres)

CUSTER FOREST:
1. Red Lodge Creek/Hellroaring (17,840 acres)
2. Burnt Mtn (8,000 acres)
3. Fishtail Saddle-back (16,560 acres)
4. Black Butte (880 acres)
5. West of Woodfire (2,000 acres)

HOLD (continued)

LEWIS & CLARK FOREST:
1. Pilgrim Creek (49,500 acres)
2. Castles (29,600 acres)
3. Highwoods (24,100 acres)
4. Highwood Baldy (15,600 acres)
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5. West of Woodfire (2,000 acres)

KOOTENAI FOREST:
1. Maple Peak (900 acres)
2. Buckhorn Ridge (22,900 acres)
3. Cataract (17,200 acres)
4. Grizzly Peak (5,900 acres)
5. Gold Hill (10,800 acres)
6. Cabinet East/West Additions (44,200 acres)
7. Berray Mtn (8,200 acres)
8. Government Mtn (8,600 acres)
9. Lone Cliff Smeads (6,700 acres)
10. McNeely (8,800 acres)
11. Galena Creek (15,700 acres)
12. E. Fork Elk Creek (5,400 acres)
13. Roderick (25,400 acres)
14. Tuchuck (2,300 acres)
15. Thompson-Seton (13,400 acres)
16. Deep Creek (10,400 acres)
17. Zulu Creek (6,000 acres)
18. Marston Face (6,000 acres)
19. Willard-Lake Estelle (300 acres)
20. Gold Hill (W) (10,200 acres)
21. Flagstaff Mtn (10,200 acres)
22. Roberts Mtn (2,700 acres)
23. W. Fork Elk Creek (4,800 acres)
24. Rock Creek (400 acres)

LEWIS & CLARK FOREST:
1. Crazy Mountains (16,600 acres)
2. Tenderfoot/Deep Creek (1,400 acres)
3. Paine Gulch (8,500 acres)
4. Sawmill Creek (12,800 acres)
5. TW Mtn (8,500 acres)
6. Big Baldy (44,000 acres)
7. Granite Mtn (10,580 acres)
8. Tollgate-Sheep (26,800 acres)
9. Mount High (32,300 acres)
10. Bluff Mtn (37,120 acres)
11. Spring Creek (19,800 acres)
12. Box Canyon (9,900 acres)
13. North Fork of Smith (8,800 acres)
14. Calf Creek (11,020 acres)
15. Eagle Creek (6,300 acres)
16. Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan (9,000 acres)

LOLO FOREST:
1. Maple Peak (6,960 acres)
2. Stevens Peak (600 acres)
3. Wonderful Peak (1.600 acres)
4. Great Burn (6,800 acres)
5. Meadow Creek-Upper North (7,200 acres)
6. Silver King (13,070 acres)
7. Bear-Marshall-Scapegoat-Swan (43,900 acres)
8. Cataract (9,900 acres)
9. Sundance Ridge (6,610 acres)
10. Teepee-Spring Creek (14,890 acres)
11. Mt Bushnell (43,070 acres)
12. Gilt Edge-Silver (11,200 acres)
13. Patrick's Knob-N. Cutoff (17,200 acres)

RELEASE (Lolo Forest continued)

14. S. Siegel-S. Cutoff (14,800 acres)
15. N. Siegel (10,000 acres)
16. Marble Point (13,210 acres)
17. Sheep Mtn/State Line (8,500 acres)
18. Stark Mtn (14,200 acres)
19. Burdette Creek (15,400 acres)
20. Lolo Creek (10,670 acres)
21. Garden Point (6,500 acres)
22. Petty Mtn (16,980 acres)
23. Rattlesnake (2,700 acres)
24. Reservation Divide (16,300 acres)
25. Baldy Mtn (6,680 acres)
26. Ward Eagle (8,570 acres)
27. Evans Gulch (8,830 acres)
28. Clear Creek (5,470 acres)
29. Deep Creek (7,970 acres)

Subtotal: 2,756,261 acres

Senator BAUCUS. I have just one question, Ken, and that is prioritizing, to use that awful word. Could you please give your order of areas that should be included, if you could just give some rough outline of what is the most important and what is a little less important and so forth, to be included. What areas should be included in wilderness from your point of view and in some order?

Mr. KNUDSON. Let me just preface that a bit. I think that we are in the process of doing that right now. I think, as you know, 2 years ago, alternative W was 2.2 million acres. We adjusted boundaries and it is down to 1.9 million acres. Then in the letter that all of you received on June 8, we further prioritized as the official position of the Montana Wildlands Coalition 1.4 million acres of wilderness. I think we have done an awful lot in the last——

Senator BAUCUS. I appreciate that, but given the bill, and you know what the bill says.

Mr. KNUDSON. I know what the bill says.

Senator BAUCUS. What other areas would you include in order of their importance? Maybe you are not there.

Mr. KNUDSON. I think that is the point that we are at right now, I think, Senator Baucus, is looking at these things. Again, we are very discouraged that we have not seen the same sorts of things on paper, from oil and gas, from timber. I think the snowmobilers have come close to doing that.

I guess—I am not trying to evade your question, it is just that we feel that we have compromised and prioritized on paper and submitted it to you. I think once they do that, then we can sit down and maybe make some more hard choices, if we have to. But I would sincerely request that they do the same.

Senator BAUCUS. Maybe I am wrong here, but what have you lost, if you drop a list of areas in some basis of descending order of importance, even though you did it before another group, what have you lost? Sometimes I think in life you have got to take the first step anyway if you want something accomplished.

Mr. KNUDSON. Sure, and I appreciate that. We want to help Congress as much as we can on that. But please understand that we are a coalition of 45 separate conservation groups and I think that that was what your first request to us was. It was to come together after the Lee Metcalf bill, to come together as the group with the unified voice and every meeting it becomes more difficult for us to lower our acreage level—and I know that is what you are after—when we don't see reciprocation from the other side.

When we get a lot of pressure, and I know you have received a lot of pressure over the last 3 weeks, understand that those of us that are on the steering committee of the Wildlands Coalition have also received a lot of pressure that, A, why aren't you going for 3 million or 4 million? By doing this compromising and coming down on your position, you seem to just be losing more ground all of the time.

Understand that when you have a coalition, it is real tough——

Senator BAUCUS. I am encouraging all groups to come up with some kind of a list and I mean all groups. I do not think it makes much difference whether group A comes in on day one and group B comes in on day two, but I think all groups have to develop these orders of priority as best they possibly can. I encourage that.

Mr. **Knudson**. I feel that the Montana Wildlife Federation, at least, is attempting to do that and trying to do the best we can.

Senator **Baucus**. Thank you.

Senator **Hecht**. Senator, any other questions?

Senator **Baucus**. No, thank you.

Senator **Hecht**. The next panel, Eugene Smith and Jackie Stephens, United States Borax representatives; John F. Hotchkiss, Copper King Mining, Milling & Development Co.; Gary Langley, executive director, Montana Mining Association; John McBride, St. Regis Corp.; John Ulrich, F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.; Tom Osborne, executive vice president Asarco, Inc.

Come forward please. On my list, the first witnesses are Eugene Smith and Jackie Stephens.

STATEMENT OF EUGENE D. SMITH, VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, UNITED STATES BORAX & CHEMICAL CORP., ACCOMPANIED BY JACKIE E. STEPHENS, NORTHWEST REGIONAL MANAGER, UNITED STATES BORAX & CHEMICAL CORP.

Mr. **Smith**. Mr. Chairman, my name is Eugene Smith and I am vice president for government and public affairs for United States Borax. My associate, who is currently working with the maps, is a geologist. His name is Jackie Stephens and he is the northwest regional manager for exploration for United States Borax.

I guess United States Borax is better known for its consumers' product, the 20-mule-team products.

The mineral potential of three areas proposed as wilderness in Senate bill 2850 warrants retention of these areas under Forest Service multiple-use designation. The areas are the Trout Creek Wilderness, Cabinet Mountains Wilderness additions and the Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. Mr. Stephens will discuss these areas in some detail.

STATEMENT OF JACKIE E. STEPHENS, NORTHWEST REGIONAL MANAGER, UNITED STATES BORAX & CHEMICAL CORP.

Mr. **Stephens**. The Cabinet Mountains area, the Trout Creek Area down here and the Scotchman Peaks here, we would like to submit written testimony of these areas. I will show you where they are at. This is the Trout Creek area here. This is the first area here enlarged. Our claims, if you can see this here, it is proposed wilderness 664, which is centered on our claim. The geology of this tells us that there is good mineralization in this area. We would like to officially oppose this wilderness in here.

We have mineralization up in the Scotchman Peaks Area, up here, along Star Gulch, in this general area, and we do not agree to this part of the wilderness from here on down. This is in the Scotchman Peaks area.

Within the Cabinet area, we have a small objection to this corner here of the wilderness out in here. It is just a little over a square mile in which we have a property in this general area, called the McKay property. And we are making all of this in smaller form so that you can better understand it.

That is about all I have to say.

The general trend of the mineralization in the Cabinet area in western Montana, there has been a new discovery of silver, copper, and strataform mineralization. It is related to a certain formation which we call revette, which is explained in our written submittal. The mining district is down in here, which is a well-known silver district of the world, the Coeur d'Alene mining district. And the recently found district that we have is the North-South district here, which is the Troy project which is shown on this map here. It is a mine now in production.

The more recent announcement that Asarco made is in the Rock Creek project over here and we are involved around this general area and have asked for two small exclusions, up here and there.

Mr. SMITH. In summary in the Trout Creek Area, we would suggest that the entire area be excluded from wilderness. It is very small, as you note, 12,600 acres. It conflicts with about 8,000 acres that we have under claim. It has very good mineral potential and we do not think you should establish the conflict between mineral exploration, possible development, and wilderness classification in this particular area.

In the Cabinet Mountains area, which is mineralized and being explored by Asarco, United States Borax, and others, we think it has very good potential. It is nonmineralized. Asarco has announced a mine in the area and we have known mineral intercepts in the area. In that area we just advise caution in how you allocate wilderness for that area.

I think it is very important that you keep the access to that area open to mineral exploration, and as Jackie mentioned, one small area that we would like you to eliminate the wilderness. In the Scotchman Peaks area, that 13,000 acres to the lower end conflicts with the claims of United States Borax and others and we would suggest your consideration for deletion of that area.

Our time is up. Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Smith and Mr. Stephens follows:]

STATEMENT OF

EUGENE D. SMITH
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

AND

JACKIE E. STEPHENS
NORTHWEST REGIONAL MANAGER

REPRESENTING
UNITED STATES BORAX AND CHEMICAL CORPORATION

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS & RESERVED WATERS
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AUGUST 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Eugene D. Smith, Vice President for Government and Public Affairs for U.S. Borax. My associate is Jackie Stephens, Northwest Regional Manager, Exploration, for U.S. Borax. U.S. Borax pioneered the borax industry in the world and the potash industry in the United States. We are presently the major world producer of borate minerals.

The mineral potential of certain areas proposed as wilderness in Senate Bill 2850 warrants the retention of these areas under Forest Service multiple-use designation. We will discuss these areas in detail.

U.S. Borax has an active mineral exploration program throughout the U.S., including Alaska, and portions of Canada and Mexico. One of the most promising areas the corporation presently has under exploration is the Cabinet Mountains area of Montana. The mineral potential of this area is discussed in Appendix I.

Senate Bill 2850 proposes three wilderness areas that would impact this exploration program in the Kootenai National Forest. They are:

- Trout Creek Wilderness
  Dated June 1984
- Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Additions
  Dated June 1984
- Scotchman Peaks Wilderness
  Dated June 1984

Trout Creek Wilderness

The proposed Trout Creek Wilderness Area comprises approximately 12,600 acres and overlies a highly mineralized area which we have under claim and an exploration drilling program. This claim block extends into Idaho and comprises 8,240 acres, of which about one-third is in Montana and within the proposed wilderness.

The mineral potential of this area warrants its retention in multiple use status. This position is supported by the fact that the State of Idaho did not propose the southwesterly extension of this RARE II area for wilderness designation. In addition, the proposed area is small (12,600 acres), isolated and of ordinary scenic quality.

The designation of this area as wilderness would be in direct conflict with the exploration and possible mineral development of the area.

We recommend that the entire area be deleted from wilderness consideration (see Map I).

Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Addition

The proposed Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Addition would add approximately 30,627 acres to the present 94,000-acre Cabinet Mountains Wilderness.

Although we do not support the proposed additions, they are not of paramount concern provided no changes are made to nonwilderness boundaries of the Rock Creek - Heidelberg Mine - Rock Lake area.

As reported in Appendix I, there is known mineralization in the Rock Peak area (see Map II): ASARCO has announced permitting of a mine and U.S. Borax has ore-grade core-drill intercepts. Wilderness additions should avoid further conflict with the development of these mineral reserves.

A portion of the proposed wilderness area designated as Roadless Area 676 conflicts with our McKay Creek prospect and we recommend the deletion of that portion lying within Sections 29 and 32, T.26 N., R. 31 W (see Map II).

Scotchman Peaks Wilderness

The proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness comprises approximately 41,100 acres. It is an area of good mineral potential and overlies claims located by U.S. Borax and others.

Mineral potential warrants the elimination of the southeasterly portion of this proposed wilderness area. This would eliminate the major portion of the conflict with the above-mentioned claims and the exploration thereof. We therefore strongly recommend that this 13,000 acre section be deleted from the proposed wilderness area (see Map III).

APPENDIX I

MINERALIZATION 8-8-84

U.S. Borax started mineral exploration in the Precambrian Belt Rocks of Western Montana in 1971. A consultant, Dr. Ian Nichol of Queens University, assisted in coordinating the geochemistry with the geology for this field sampling program. Due to the extreme competition surrounding the Troy Project, U.S. Borax's exploration was directed away from this area. The Revette formation, a clean, shallow-water, cross-bedded quartzite was explored, but no economic values were found within these outlying areas.

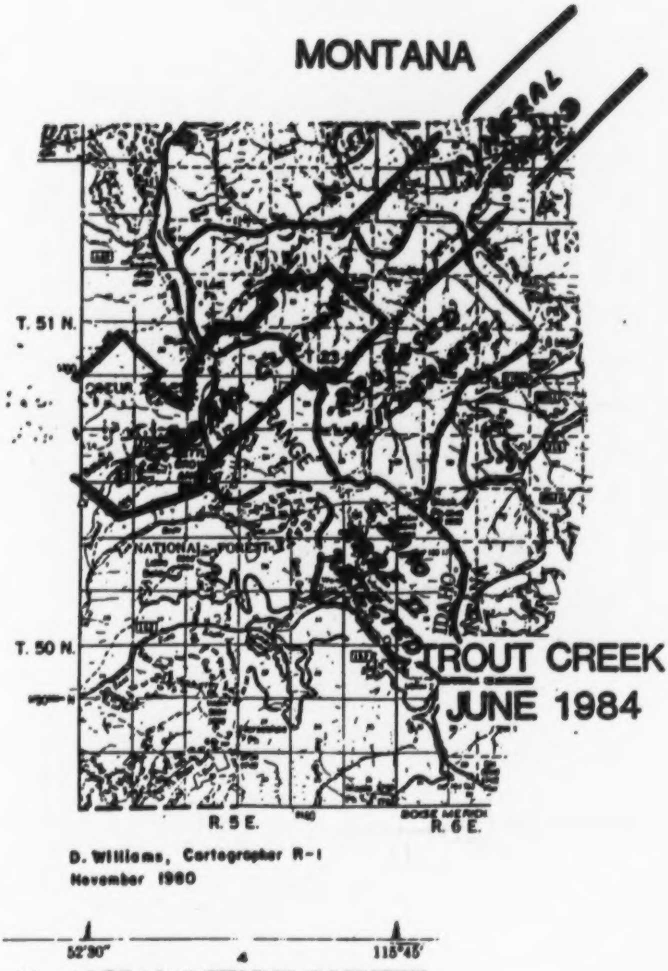
U.S. Borax returned to re-evaluate the Troy Project area in 1979. By this time, several northwestern geologists had noticed the correlation between the Troy type mineralization and the Coeur d Alene (CdA) mineralization to the south. The world-famous CdA mines and the Troy Project mineralization are hosted within the same Revette formation. Although the CdA mines are high-grade veins and are closely related to the regional Osbourne Fault (trending WNW), the second more recently discovered silver/copper district trends north-south along a broader zone of up to 25 miles wide and 75 - 100 miles long.

There are at least two dozen significant silver/copper prospects along this zone. This mineralization, although strataform in origin, has been remobilized and concentrated against north-south trending faults, forming economic lodes. These lodes are elongate and finite, having little respect for the internal Revette boundaries. The lodes usually stay within the Revette, but often climb laterally up and down sections towards a barrier fault. This has been substantiated by surface and sub-surface geological mapping.

Along this more recently recognized north-south mineralized zone there is one producing mine (Troy Project of ASARCO and Kennecott), and one more mine just announced: Rock Creek Project near Noxon, Montana (see Map II). ASARCO recently held its first public meeting in Noxon to discuss its new Rock Creek proposal; permitting procedures will require two years. The Rock Creek silver/copper property is reportedly much bigger than the Troy Project and of significantly higher grades. Kennecott also owns 25% of this new ore body. U.S. Borax also owns reserves in the Rock Peak area; these are probably of higher grade than the ASARCO-Kennecott ore.

Although the Cabinet Mountains have scenic value, the newly discovered silver/copper ores are unique, world-class deposits. Moreover, mining as presently proposed in the Cabinet Mountains will be done from outside of the present wilderness, with minimal negative effects.

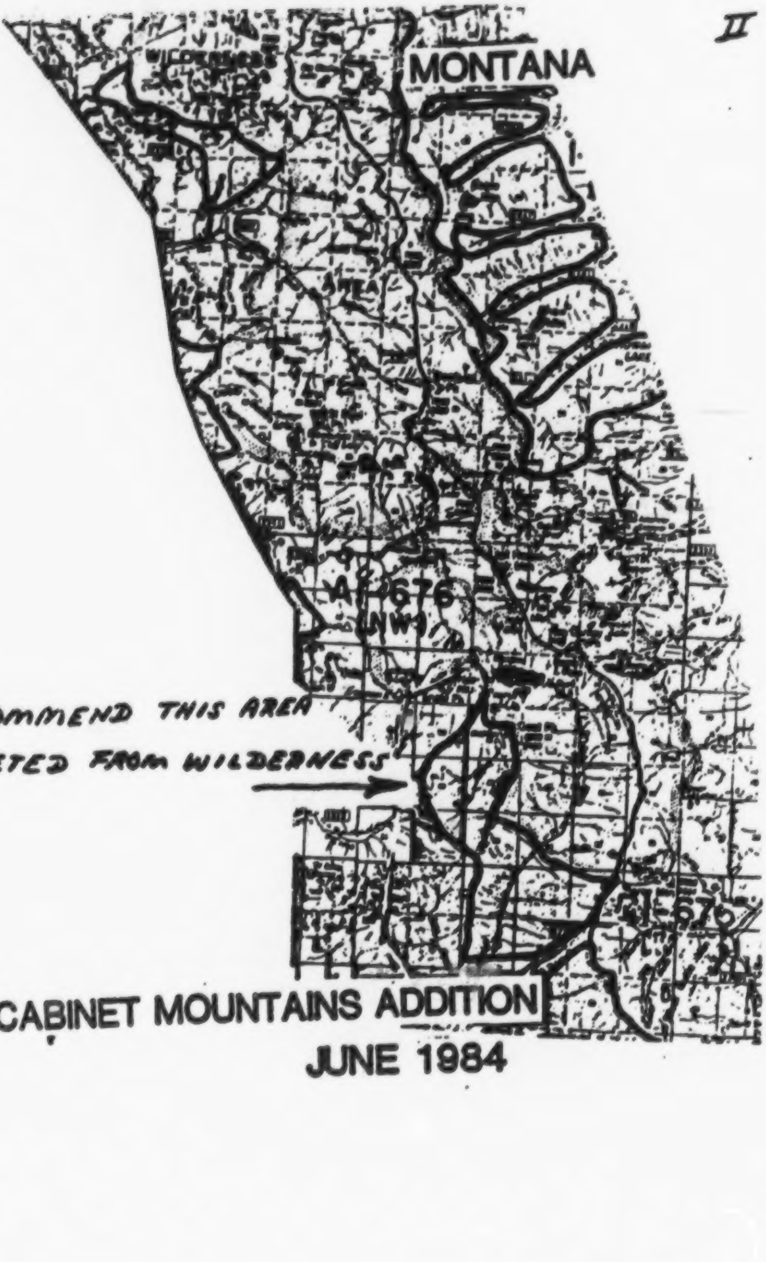
In summary, more wilderness within this newly discovered world-class silver/copper district would conflict with the exploration and mineral development of this district and is not warranted or justified. However, if more area is to be designated as wilderness, extreme care should be taken to assure the development of the silver/copper reserves of this district.


MONTANA
T. 51 N.
T. 50 N.
NATIONAL FOREST
IDAHO
TROUT CREEK
JUNE 1984
R. 5 E.
BOISE MERIDIAN
R. 6 E.
52'30"
115°45'

D. Williams, Cartographer R-1
November 1980

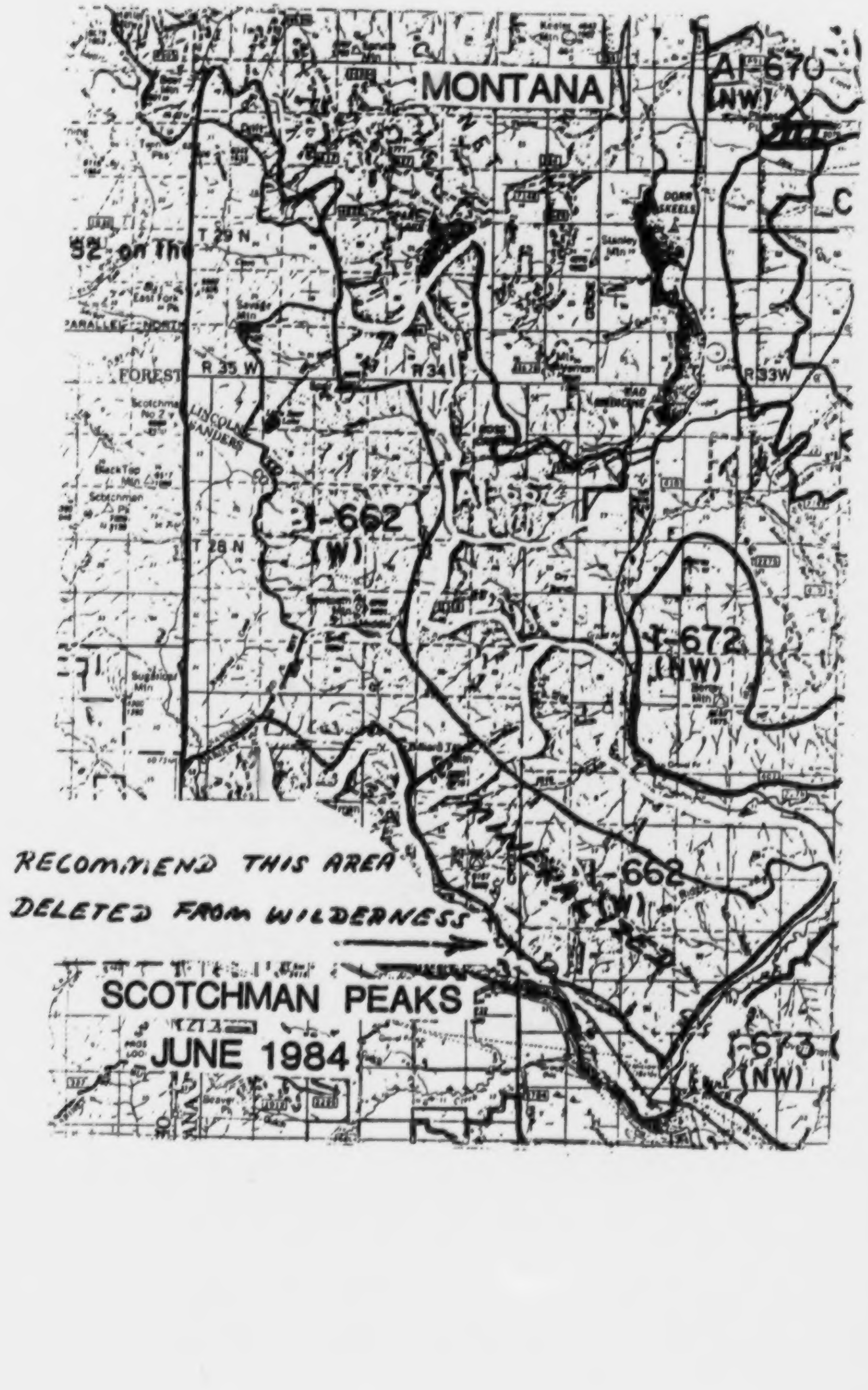
Trout Creek

II


MONTANA
A-676
(NW)
A-676

RECOMMEND THIS AREA DELETED FROM WILDERNESS →

CABINET MOUNTAINS ADDITION
JUNE 1984


MONTANA
AI-670
(NW)
T 29 N
R 35 W
R 34
R 33W
Scotchman No 2
LINCOLN
SANDERS
I-662
(W)
AI-557
T 28 N
I-672
(NW)
I-662
(W)
673
(NW)

RECOMMEND THIS AREA
DELETED FROM WILDERNESS

SCOTCHMAN PEAKS
JUNE 1984

STATEMENT OF JOHN F. HOTCHKISS, COPPER KING MINING, CO., LIVINGSTON, MT

Mr. HOTCHKISS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I am John Hotchkiss. Margaret Reeb is not here. I am here representing the 500 stockholders of the Copper King Mining Co., which holds 56 patented and unpatented mining claims that were mistakenly included within the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness boundary in 1978. These claims represent the entire holdings of the company, and include patented claims originally discovered and developed by my grandfather, Bertel Holland, one of the founders of the Copper King in 1904.

To my knowledge, the general policy covering incorporation of land into a wilderness area is that patented or deeded land is excluded where possible. Since the Copper King is within a mile or two of the 1978 boundary, it was certainly possible to exclude it. Incorporating it into the boundary then, was against general policy.

I am also under the impression that areas classified and designated as primitive are areas that qualify for consideration as wilderness. The Copper King was never included in the lands designated as Beartooth primitive area, because it is within a visible and valid mining district with rock dumps and stockpiles, shafts, bulldozed trenches, and core drilling sites. Anyone who has been there would have to agree that to call it a wilderness area is a contradiction. Evidence of mining activity abounds.

There are extremists on both sides of wilderness issues. In this case, shortly after the property was included within the wilderness boundary in 1978, a barricade of boulders was placed on the road our company built from Cooke City to the Copper King over 80 years ago. For good measures, someone also completely destroyed a hand-hewn log bridge on the road, denying access to our deeded property.

In addition to being denied access, we have also been put in the position of being unable to develop the mineral potential of the property. In 1907, four of our patented claims were sold to the W.S. Dwinell Co. of Minneapolis for a million dollars, a transaction noted in newspapers of the time. That sale was later negated by the financial panic of 1907.

I mention this only to emphasize that the existing claims are not ephemeral or frivolous in any way. Indeed, the Department of the Interior, in Geological Survey Bulletin 1391-F, page F 99, notes that a stockpile sample from a small Copper King shaft contained 1.3 ounces per ton platinum, 1.06 ounces per ton palladium, and 3 ounces per ton of silver, 3.2-percent copper, and a trace of gold, which, of course, are strategic metals. The bulletin goes on to say that additional exploration is necessary to determine the extent and average grade of the mineralized zone of the Copper King.

To those that offer the observation that the Wilderness Act does not prevent exploration or development of mining claims, I offer the real-world economic fact that mining companies will not explore or develop claims in wilderness areas, certainly not for relatively small holdings such as the Copper King. I quote from a letter to Ms. Margaret Reeb, a stockholder, from John D. Forrester of the

Phelps Dodge Corp., "Exploration, let alone development and utilization, is not practical. Neither I nor my management could justify acquisition of mineral property, patented or unpatented, within a wilderness area."

I have here attached to my testimony letters to Ms. Reeb from Anaconda Copper, Chevron Resources, Gulf Mineral Resources Co., Cyprus Mines, Noranda Exploration, and Conoco, which make similar points.

To sum up, including the Copper King in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness area was against general policy since it is deeded, patented land. The property cannot be classified as primitive, much less as wilderness, due to the visible evidence of use as a mining district. In addition to being denied access to our property, we have been put in a position where exploration and development of the property is no longer practical, rendering potentially valuable claims worthless.

On behalf of the stockholders, I urge the subcommittee to report favorably on removing the land around the Copper King from the wilderness area. This is in the Goose Lake Basin.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hotchkiss follows:]

8 August 1984

Statement of John F. Hotchkiss to the Senate Subcommittee, Public Lands and Reserve Waters

I am here representing the 500 stockholders of the Copper King Mining Company which holds fifty-six patented and unpatented mining claims that were mistakenly included within the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness boundary in 1978. These claims represent the entire holdings of the company and include patented claims originally discovered and developed by my grandfather, Bertel Holland -- one of the founders of the Copper King in 1904.

To my knowledge, the general policy covering incorporation of land into a wilderness area is that patented or deeded land is excluded where possible. Since the Copper King is within a mile or two of the 1978 boundary, it was certainly possible to exclude it. Incorporating it into the wilderness, then, was against general policy. I am also under the impression that areas classified and designated as primitive are areas that qualify for consideration as wilderness. The Copper King was never included in the lands designated as Beartooth primitive area because it is within a visible and valid mining district with rock dumps and stockpiles, shafts, bulldozed trenches and core drilling sites. Anyone who has been there would have to agree that to call it a "wilderness" area is a contradiction -- evidence of mining activity abounds.

There are extremists on both sides of wilderness issues. In this case, shortly after the property was included within the wilderness boundary in 1978, a barricade of boulders was placed on the road our company built from Cooke City to the Copper King over eighty years ago. For good measure, someone also completly destroyed a hand-hewn log bridge on the road -- denying access to our deeded property.

In addition to being denied access to our property, we have also been put in the position of being unable to develop the mineral potential of the property. In 1907, four of our patented claims were sold to the W.S. Dwinell Co. of Minneapolis for $1,000,000 -- a transaction noted in newspapers of the time. That sale was later negated by the financial panic of 1907. I mention this to emphasize that the existing claims are not ephemeral or frivolous in any way. Indeed, the Department of the Interior, in Geological Survey Bulletin 1391-F, page F99, notes that a stockpile sample from a small Copper King shaft "contained 1.3 oz/ton platinum, 1.06 oz/ton palladium, 3 oz/ton silver, 3.2% copper and a trace of gold." The bulletin goes on to say that additional exploration is necessary to determine the extent and average grade of the mineralized zone of the Copper King.

To those that offer the disingenuous observation that the Wilderness Act does not prevent exploration or development of mining claims, I offer the real-world economic fact that mining companies will not explore or develop claims in wilderness areas, certainly not for relatively small holdings such as the Copper King. I quote from a letter to Ms. Margaret Reeb, a stockholder, from John D. Forrester of the Phelps Dodge Corp. Exploration Department: ". . . exploration, let alone development and utilization, is not practical. Neither I nor my management could justify acquisition of mineral property, patented or unpatented, within a wilderness area;. ." I have here similar letters to Ms. Reeb from Anaconda Copper, Chevron Resources, Gulf Mineral Resources Co., Cyprus Mines, Noranda Exploration and Conoco.

To sum Up -- Including the Copper King in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness area was against general policy since it is deeded, patented land. The property can't be classified as "primitive", much less as "wilderness", due to the visible evidence of use as a mining district. In addition to being denied access to our property we have been put in a position where exploration and development of the property is no longer practical, rendering potentially valuable claims worthless.

On behalf of the stockholders, I urge the subcommittee to report favorably on removing the land around the Copper King from the wilderness area.

Thank you,

John Hotchkiss

JOHN F. HOTCHKISS

Phelps Dodge Corporation Exploration Department • 3007 South West Temple, Suite H, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115
(801) 487-1615

December 9, 1982

Mrs. Margaret I. Reeb
P. O. Box 301
Livingston, Montana 59047

Dear Mrs. Reeb:

Re: Goose Lake Property, MT 499

We have finally received all of the results of our examination of your property at Goose Lake, Montana. I find the property to be geologically quite intriguing as there appears to be a good prospect for finding potentially economic mineralization at depth in or near your property. Acquisition is necessary to pursue that prospect and determine the mineral value of your property, but I cannot make such a recommendation as your property is within a Wilderness area. Our company has worked in Wilderness areas before, and our experiences lead to the conclusion that exploration, let alone development and utilization, is not practical. Neither I nor my management could justify acquisition of mineral property, patented or unpatented, within a Wilderness area; therefore, Phelps Dodge Corporation declines further interest in your Goose Lake property.

Enclosed are the petrographic and geochemical results from your property and a map showing the locations from which samples were obtained.

Thank you for the opportunity to examine this fascinating prospect. I really enjoyed working on it. I hope to see you again when I pass through Cooke City or Livingston.

Yours very truly,

John D. Forrester

NON FUEL MINERA
IMPORTED DE... DOME

the National Defense Stockpile is about 50-percent short of targeted levels.

At least $6 billion needs to be spent to bring the stockpile up to par. In fiscal 1980, however, Congress authorized only $237 million for stockpiling. The actual appropriation, according to most Congressional experts, will be closer to $100 million.

In the last two decades, various Administrations have gained permission from Congress to sell existing stockpiles of certain materials on the ground that they were no longer

Noranda Exploration, Inc.
2436 West Central Avenue
Missoula, Montana 59801

Phone: (406) 728-0950

noranda

June 6, 1980

Margaret Reeb
General Delivery
Silver Gate, Montana 59081

Dear Margaret:

Thank you for submitting your mining claims in the Goose Lake area to Noranda for evaluation. Since the claims are unfortunately located a short distance inside the boundary of the Beartooth Wilderness area, we would not be interested in examining the property.

As you know, it is difficult enough to develop a mine these days outside of wilderness areas. Inside wilderness the odds are overwhelmingly against development. Even though the 1964 Wilderness Act specifically allows mining in wilderness areas (in theory), in actuality, no mines are operating in wilderness areas today because of the stringent air and water quality regulations governing these areas. The costs involved in trying to comply with the environmental regulations governing wilderness areas are so prohibitive that we do not normally go out of our way to evaluate properties located in wilderness areas.

In the case of your mining claims, even though they are located only a short distance inside the wilderness boundary, it would take a congressional act to move that boundary to exclude your claims.

Again, thank you for considering Noranda and best of luck in your endeavor to develop these claims.

Sincerely,

NORANDA EXPLORATION, INC.

Thomas A. Butler

Thomas A. Butler
District Geologist

dls

xc: G. G. Snow

Cyprus Mines Corporation

555 South Flower Street
Los Angeles, California 90071
Telephone 213) 489-3700

Cable Seimud Losangeles
Telex 67-4601

February 25, 1980

Margaret Reeb, President
Copper King Mining Company
819 East Hazel Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Subject: Copper King Mining Company - Goose Lake District, Montana

Dear Ms. Reeb:

We have received your letter dated January 29, 1980 concerning your mining property in Montana addressed to Standard Oil Company (Indiana). The Exploration Division of Cyprus Mines Corporation (which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard of Indiana (Amoco) has reviewed the property on previous occasions and we are familiar with the district and regional economic aspects of further exploration in this location.

We would not be further interested in your property at the present time due to the many governmental restrictions and regulations now in effect covering this prospect.

Yours truly,

C. A. Mark

C. A. Mark
Chief Geologist and
General Manager of
Exploration

CAM/pap

Gulf Mineral Resources Co.

100 W. Grove Street Suite 575
Reno, Nevada 89509

1720 So. Bellaire St.
Denver, CO 80222

June 29, 1978

Margaret Reeb
General Delivery
Silver Gate, Montana 59081

Dear Margaret:

I have been able to look into the data on your Goose Lake property north of Cooke City, Montana. I researched the U.S. Bureau of Mines files in Spokane and talked to the men who made the study in cooperation with the USGS. I also talked with the U.S. Forest Service Region One Headquarters people in Missoula and the Custer Forest Supervisors office. The data available is essentially the same as you sent to me. None of the above agencies have any Kerr McGee data to look at. All of the agencies and people I talked to were unanimous in stating that the area should not be included in the Beartooth Wilderness because of its mineral potential. Congress disregarded these recommendations and drew the boundary considerably south of your property and included the Goose Lake area in the Wilderness.

I have attached a Xerox copy of the first draft of the boundary drawn on the Cooke City Quadrangle. The Forest Service is now trying to determine the boundary from the record and then survey it on the ground. When that is completed, an official map will be issued. At present, the Custer Forest Map is inaccurate.

Your property at Goose Lake is very interesting in view of its mineral potential. However, from a business standpoint, I cannot justify a recommendation to my management to take on a project where restrictions are so severe that an adequate exploration program is practically impossible. If a mineable deposit is delineated, the chances of being allowed to mine it are too small to justify the expenditures required.

A DIVISION OF GULF OIL CORPORATION

TELEPHONE: (303) 758-1700

Chevron

Chevron Resources Company
1746 Cole Blvd., P. O. Box 4001, Golden, CO 80401

December 31, 1981

Ms. Margret I. Reed, President
Copper King Mining Company
P. O. Box 301
Livingston, MT 59047

Dear Ms. Reed:

Thank you for providing information on your Goose Lake and New World mining properties. After reviewing this information, it was decided that Chevron Resources cannot accept your offer to acquire the Copper King Mining Company. However, we do appreciate your bringing this offer to our attention.

In reference to your recent telephone call, I agree that the Goose Lake claims contain interesting mineralization. Based on our evaluation, however, the potential economic return that Chevron could derive from this property does not justify the high risk we must assume in undertaking exploration and development of mineral properties located inside a wilderness area.

Sincerely,

R. D. Luethe

RDL:dj

cc: Mr. R. F. Schlect, San Francisco

Domestic Minerals Exploration Division

ANACONDA Copper Company

555 Seventeenth Street
Denver, Colorado 80217
Telephone 303 575-4125

Herbert M. Weed
Vice President - Acquisitions

The people
who contend
mining is allowed
in the wilderness say so
because they don't
live in the real
world — Here are
letters hurting
our industry —
look [illegible]!

March 6, 1980

Ms. Margaret Reeb, President
Copper King Mining Company
819 East Hazel Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Dear Ms. Reeb:

Thank you for your letter of January 29, addressed to our Mr. Bradshaw, regarding various properties of the Copper King Mining Company.

As you so specifically mention in your letter, your property is located in the heart of the Beartooth Wilderness and we have considered data on this property several times in the last few years.

Because of the property's location we are unable to express an interest in its mineral development or its acquisition.

Thank you very much for thinking of Anaconda in this regard.

Cordially,

Herbert M Weed

Herbert M. Weed
Vice President - Acquisitions

HMW:bb

conoco

W. A. Petersen
Manager of Metallics Exploration
Minerals Department

Conoco Inc.
555 Seventeenth Street
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 575-6063

March 10, 1980

Ms. Margaret Reeb, President
Copper King Mining Co.
819 E. Hazel Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Dear Ms. Reeb:

Sorry to have passed your February 15th suggested dateline for replying. I am, however, writing you because your offering of a mineral interest in property located in Montana deserves the courtesy of a response, albeit belatedly.

Conoco, along with most everyone else in the natural resources business, is increasingly beseiged by overlapping and duplicating elements within the federal (and states) bureaucracy, by proponents of non-development as the American alternative; and we are particularly plagued at nearly every turn by actions taken at government agency sublevels such as you have alluded to in the public lands "lock-up" issue. Yet the company's faith in the American free enterprise system is not diminished, nor can Conoco be deterred from its charted course to be among those who are committed to exploring for, developing and producing essential minerals into America's bloodstream.

Notwithstanding the well intended principals of free enterprise, "buy American" and philanthropy which are intertwined with your mineral offering, I am conformed to weighing the merits in business terms. A small mineral interest in a part of the Goose Lake area would be of no interest to us at this time even without it being in the midst of a wilderness area that the government obviously is intent on maintaining. We have several such "dog fights" on our plate, all with about the same kind of mineral showings that are published for Beartooth Primitive Area districts, and involving less money involvement at the outset for a more representative interest.

I do thank you for thinking of Conoco in making your interesting offer.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Petersen

WAP:mec

Senator HECHT. Thank you.

Unfortunately, we just had a rollcall and I am going to have to adjourn. I just spoke to the other Senators and I think we will recess for 1 hour for a vote and then we will reconvene here at 1:15.

[Whereupon, a recess was taken.]

AFTERNOON SESSION

Senator MELCHER [presiding]. The committee will come to order. I think when we recessed this morning our next witness was Gary Langley.

STATEMENT OF GARY A. LANGLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MONTANA MINING ASSOCIATION, HELENA, MT

Mr. LANGLEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Gary Langley. I am a second generation Montanan residing in Helena, MT, where I am employed as executive director of the Montana Mining Association.

The Montana Mining Association is a trade association that represents every major producer of hardrock minerals in Montana; companies that either are developing mines or exploring for minerals in Montana; suppliers of goods and services to the mining industry, and individuals who have an interest in mining.

As a matter of policy, the Montana Mining Association is opposed to the creation of any additional wilderness areas in Montana. Montana's present wilderness system already comprises nearly one-fifth of the wilderness acreage in the lower 48 States. The Montana Mining Association believes that this is sufficient to protect Montana's wilderness heritage.

Moreover, the mining industry will exist in Montana only to the extent that public lands are made available for exploration. Because of the Nation's dependence on foreign sources for many of its critical and strategic minerals and Montana's need to develop its basic industries for its economic well being, it does not seem reasonable to close more land to exploration.

The Montana Mining Association will neither support nor oppose the proposed Montana Wilderness Act of 1984. However, unless certain criteria are met, the Montana Mining Association and its members will vigorously oppose the bill.

First, the Montana Mining Association wishes to commend Montana's congressional delegation for including in section 7 a provision that specifically precludes the designation of buffer zones around wilderness areas. This will allow activities to occur adjacent to wilderness areas in the true spirit of the multiple use concept and the conservation ethic.

It is essential that this provision remain in the bill.

Second, the Montana Mining Association urges that the language in section 6, subsection 2, be strengthened so that land released from wilderness consideration be released permanently. Under the present language, nonwilderness lands must be reviewed for their wilderness suitability at least every 15 years.

This would mean that Montana never will have less wilderness and quite likely could have more as lands are continually reevaluated for inclusion in the wilderness system. This would establish a bizarre system of defacto wilderness in which the mining industry would face continued uncertainty over the availability of land for exploration. If the mining industry is to exist on public lands in Montana, it requires stability in land use policy.

Montana has a sufficient amount of land set aside to preserve its natural beauty and wilderness heritage. Only Alaska and Idaho currently have more designated wilderness than Montana. The wilderness issue has been studied and restudied for the past two decades while millions of acres of land has either been locked up to exploration or placed under severe restrictions. This is not a stable environment for an industry that relies heavily on the use of public lands.

If nonwilderness land must be studied for its wilderness characteristics every 15 years, then wilderness land also should be reevaluated to determine whether the best interests of Montana and the Nation would be served by returning this land to multiple use.

Third, because the Montana Mining Association and its members are deeply concerned about this continual uncertainty, this should be the last bill that will create any additional wilderness in Montana. The idea of designating additional wilderness every few years to appease those who would deny jobs and economic opportunities to Montana citizens defies common sense. If this bill is passed, the wilderness issue should be settled for Montanans so its citizens can resume the task of sensibly utilizing their public lands.

Fourth, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Montana Mining Association's board of directors on May 9, 1984, a 20-year exploration period must be allowed in any new wilderness or special management areas created by this bill. This would be consistent with the original Wilderness Act passed in 1964.

Finally, specific boundary adjustments and deletions must be made to accommodate the mining industry.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Langley follows:]

TESTIMONY OF THE MONTANA MINING ASSOCIATION
BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER
AUGUST 9, 1984, WASHINGTON, D.C.

By GARY A. LANGLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Chairman, members of the subcommittee.

My name is Gary A. Langley. I am a second generation Montanan residing in Helena, Montana, where I am employed as executive director of the Montana Mining Association.

The Montana Mining Association is a trade association that represents: 1.) Every major producer of hardrock minerals in Montana; 2.) Companies that either are developing mines or exploring for minerals in Montana; 3.) Suppliers of goods and services to the mining industry, and 4.) Individuals who have an interest in mining.

As a matter of policy, the Montana Mining Association is opposed to the creation of any additional wilderness areas in Montana. Montana's present wilderness system already comprises nearly one-fifth of the wilderness acreage in the lower 48 states. The Montana Mining Association believes this is sufficient to protect Montana's wilderness heritage. Moreover, the mining industry will exist in Montana only to the extent that public lands are made available for exploration. Because of the nation's dependence on foreign sources for many of its critical and strategic minerals and Montana's need to develop its basic industries for its economic well being, it does not seem reasonable to close more land to exploration.

The Montana Mining Association will neither support or oppose the proposed Montana Wilderness Act of 1984 (S. 2850). However, unless certain criteria are met, the Montana Mining Association and its members will vigorously oppose the bill.

First, the Montana Mining Association wishes to commend Montana's Congressional delegation for including in Section 7 a provision that specifically precludes the designation of buffer zones around wilderness areas. This will allow activities to occur adjacent to wilderness areas in the true spirit of the multiple use concept and the conservation ethic.

It is essential that this provision remain in the bill.

Second, the Montana Mining Association urges that the language in Section 6, subsection 2, be strengthened so that land released from wilderness consideration be released permanently. Under the present language, nonwilderness lands must be reviewed for their wilderness suitability at least every 15 years. This would mean that Montana never will have less wilderness and quite likely could have more as lands are continually re-evaluated for inclusion in the wilderness system. This would establish a bizarre system of defacto wilderness in which the mining industry would face continued uncertainty over the availability of land for exploration. If the mining industry is to exist on public lands in Montana, it requires stability in land use policy.

Montana has a sufficient amount of land set aside to preserve its natural beauty and wilderness heritage. Only Alaska and Idaho currently have more designated wilderness than Montana. The wilderness issue has been studied and restudied for the past two decades while millions of acres of land has been either locked up to exploration or placed under severe restrictions. This is not a stable environment for an industry that relies heavily on the utilization of public lands.

If nonwilderness land must be studied for its wilderness characteristics every 15 years, then wilderness land also should be re-evaluated to determine whether the best interests of Montana and the nation would be served by returning this land to multiple use.

Third, because the Montana Mining Association and its members are deeply concerned about this continual uncertainty, this should be the last bill that will create any additional wilderness in Montana. The idea of designating additional wilderness every few years to appease those who would deny jobs and economic opportunities to Montana citizens defies common sense. If S. 2850 is passed, the wilderness issue should be settled for Montana so its citizens can resume the task of sensibly utilizing their public lands.

Fourth, in accordance with a resolution passed by the Montana Mining Association's Board of Directors on May 9, 1984, a 20-year exploration period must be allowed in any new wilderness or special management areas created by S. 2850. This would be consistent with the original Wilderness Act passed in 1964.

Finally, specific boundary adjustments and deletions must be made to accommodate the mining industry.

These deletions and boundary changes are as follows:

1. The provision removing the patented mining claims from the Goose Lake area of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area must be kept intact.

2. The 2,000 acres of land owned by the Anaconda Minerals Co. in the Storm Lake area must be excluded from the bill. Specifically, the private land included in the bill consists of part or all of sections 19, 21, 23 and 25, Township 4 North, Range 13 West.

3. The proposed Republic Mountain addition to the North Absaroka Wilderness Area should be deleted. This area is literally blanketed with patented mining claims and is currently undergoing active exploration. (Maps attached)

4. The proposed Flint Range Wilderness Ares must be deleted. The entire area contains deposits of tungsten, molybdenum and commercial grade phoshate. A boundary adjustment will not accommodate the mining industry's needs in this area.

5. A boundary adjustment is necessary in the lower portion of the proposed East Pioneers Wilderness Area. Several patented mining claims exist in the area, and it has high potential for metallic minerals. (Map attached)

6. Sections 23-26 should be eliminated from the proposed Italian Peaks Wilderness Area to accommodate a deposit of yttryim that is currently being evaluated by a major mining company.

7. Similarly, the entire proposed Hoodoo area must be eliminated because of active exploration by both corporations and individuals for yttryim and fluorspar.

Yttryim is considered a critical mineral and is used for various purposes including oil and gas refining. At present, 100 percent of this important --but little known--mineral is imported from Malaysia.

8. Mineral claims lie in the proposed Trout Creek Wilderness Area from Windfall Peak to Berry Lake. A boundary adjustment is necessary.

9. The proposed special management areas for the Middle Fork of the Judith, Big Snowies and Elkhorns should be eliminated. Active exploration for precious metals, non-metallic minerals and sapphires is occurring in all three of these areas. At least six patented mining claims exist on the boundary of the Elkhorn study area. Placing this area in a special management category would preclude expansion as exploration develops.

Roadless areas currently being considered for wilderness and special management areas are the last frontier for mineral exploration in Montana. Exploration is the lifeblood of the mining industry. Without continued exploration, there is no guarantee that mining will have a future in Montana.

Thousands of Montanans depend on the mining industry for jobs, which are among the best paying in the state. Moreover, counties in which mining operations are located depend in large part on the tax base provided by the industry. The state also receives several million dollars in severance taxes which are paid whether or not a mining company makes a profit.

For these reasons, the Montana Mining Association urges you to consider the suggested amendments proposed for S. 2850.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF JOHN K. McBRIDE, ST. REGIS CORP., LIBBY, MT

Mr. McBride. Like everyone else, I appreciate the opportunity to give testimony on S. 2850, the Montana wilderness bill. I am John K. McBride, of Libby, MT. I am employed by St. Regis Corp. I have been a forester in Montana with St. Regis and its predecessor, J. Neils, for 32 years.

I am a member of the Montana Governor's Forest Land Use Committee and a member of Senator Melcher's RARE VIII group.

S. 2850 attempts to solve in an equitable fashion the possible fate of the unroaded land in the State of Montana. It is a good try, though it does not quite pull it off. When wilderness is established, it is forever, subject only to Congress. The ability to develop resources is only for 10 to 15 years and is subject to appeals, lawsuits and harassment—not equitable at all. However, industry does need it sufficiently and we need it badly. We need release and this bill does provide it, though the price is high.

The bill is built in part on what was available; namely, Forest Service draft plans. These plans are preliminary, tentative, incomplete, and untested. Plans that the forest industry does not always agree with and tentatively plans to challenge some in court. We feel that the timberland in some of these Forest Service drafts is poorly defined, incorrectly managed, and understates both volume and value. This is true for other resources as well as timber.

Timber is one important part of the resource, but there are others. This mix of resource complicates the delegation's problems in making a bill. One or more industries may have utterly no interest in an area, but it may be absolutely vital to another industry. Priorities must be established and carefully weighed, as someone sometime is going to get stuck.

I have got a table on this in my written testimony.

On a more local level, there are proposals for northwest Montana, where I have extensive personal knowledge. Agreement to wilderness here is largely tied to boundary modifications in Scotchman Peaks. There is no question that there is some wilderness. There is also no question there is timber and proven mineral potential. A defensible topographic boundary is available on the provided Scotchman Peaks map.

This boundary provides for timber, mineral, and wilderness and by releasing the higher quality timberland, it allows for all of lower quality timberland in two other proposed areas, Chippewa Creek and Cabinet Face West, to go into wilderness. If Scotchman Peaks wilderness includes significant amounts of timberland, we will need to object to losing any other commercial timberland in this area.

Ten Lakes is another question. I think it is a lousy wilderness, though a good Forest Service special use area. As presented, it contains cutting units and roads which are obviously incompatible to wilderness. We have lawsuits from environmentalists which say just that in other places, so I am sure they will agree to it. This must be deleted. This helps the mineral problem but does little for oil and gas or motorized recreation. They will opt for no wilderness. Gentlemen, you are on your own on that one, but please get the roads and the clearcuts out.

McKay Creek as presented is agreeable to timber, but some mineral interests are excited over some claims inside the boundary.

Cabinet Face East is a relatively new proposal. It was identified for multiple-use in the unit plans. Now it surfaces as a wilderness proposal. It has not been thoroughly evaluated. We do know that the canyons of Cedar, Parmenter, and Flower Creek have excellent timber and high sites. So does Granite Creek, although it is rockbound at the canyon mouth. Smearl Creek, Deep Creek, and Snow Creek are no big deal. How about some boundary adjustments? And I have some maps for one try.

Trout Creek is a poor wilderness as it stands. There is not much timber involved, but there are mineral claims that split the area almost in half. Should these not prove out, the loss of resource would be minimal from our point of view. However, is it necessary? Does it serve a purpose? Or does it just make some acres and shut up the greedy?

It is obvious that the delegation and the staff have put a lot of effort into the proposal. I am sure the results are not universally appreciated and that you probably expected this. We do appreciate very much the work you have gone through. We believe in the concept of the Montana wilderness bill. We do feel an absolute need for the revisions we propose. For starters, it is a good try. With revisions, it could be acceptable.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. McBride follows:]

TESTIMONY FOR
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER

By

John K. McBride
St. Regis Corporation

Like everyone else, I appreciate the opportunity to give testimony on SB 2850, the Montana Wilderness bill. I am John K. McBride of Libby, Montana, employed by St. Regis Corporation. I've been a forester in Montana with St. Regis and its predecessor, J. Neils Lumber Company for 32 years. I'm a member of the Montana Governor's Forest Land Use Committee and a member of Senator Melcher's "Rare 8" group. The "Rare 8" group consisted of four industry representatives and four environmentalists that attempted to find common ground for wilderness and release of unroaded Montana land.

This bill attempts to solve, in an equitable fashion, the possible fate of the unroaded land in the State of Montana. It is a good try, though it doesn't quite pull it off. When wilderness is established, it is forever; subject to Congress. The ability to develop resources is for ten to fifteen years and subject to appeals, lawsuits and harassment. Not equitable at all.

The bill is built in part on what was available from Forest Service draft plans. These plans are preliminary, tentative, incomplete and untested. Plans that the forest industry does not agree with and tentatively plan to challenge in court. We feel that the timberland in these Forest Service drafts is at times poorly defined, incorrectly managed and understates both volume and value. This is true for other resources as well as timber.

This means the effect of SB 2850 on a number of dependent mills has not been fully explored. The Lousiana Pacific mill at Deer Lodge is heavily impacted. Planned future timber sales are within the boundaries of a proposed wilderness area near their mill. The Stoltze mills in Dillon and Darby suffer considerably. A $300,000 logging road is inside one of the proposed areas near them, as well as the sale area. George Berg's mill near Lewistown would lose almost his total source of Douglas fir -- and from an area that has been logged in for a hundred years! I am sure the intent of the bill is not to harm small mills. Decidedly, boundary changes and some deletions are in order to prevent serious damage.

There is already considerable acreage of wilderness in Montana. The Cabinet Mountains, the Bob Marshal, the Scapegoat, the Great Bear, the Rattlesnake, Welcome Creek, the Anaconda-Pintlars, the Gates of the Mountains, the Absaroka-Beartooth, the Lee Metcalf, all total up to a lot of land. The B.L.M. wilderness program has hardly started yet. The question is how much land does Montana need to use, not how much can they lock up. Timber is one important part of the resource, but there are others. Hard rock minerals, oil and gas, and motorized recreation cannot operated in a wilderness, and livestock grazing is inhibited. This mix of resources complicated the delegation's problems making a bill. One or more industries may have utterly no interest in any area, one or more have some interest, but it may be absolutely vital to one industry. This does happen in all possible combinations. Priorities must be established and carefully weighed, because someone is going to get stuck.

To get an idea of the total importance of various areas, the Western Environmental Trade Association arranged a meeting. All user groups were represented here. Each proposed wilderness or special management area was looked at. Each user group assigned a value to the area from 1 (low) to 10 (high). This is summarized in Table 1. This does an inadequate job of showing areas that may be of supreme importance to one industry, but of indifference to the others.

On a more local level, there are the proposals for Northwestern Montana where I have extensive personal knowledge. Agreement to wilderness here is largely tied to boundary modifications on Scotchman Peak. There is no question that there is wilderness. There is also timber and proven mineral potential. A defensible topographic boundary is available on the provided Scotchman Peak's map. This boundary provides for timber, mineral and wilderness. By releasing the higher quality timberland, it allows for all of lower quality commercial timber in Chippewa Creek and Cabinet Face West to go into wilderness. If the Scotchman Peak's wilderness includes significant amounts of timber, we would need to object to losing any other commercial timberland in these areas.

McKay Creek is agreeable to timber as it is proposed, but some mineral interests are excited over some claims inside the boundary.

Cabinet Face East is a new proposal. It was identified for multiple use in the Unit Plans. Now it surfaces as a wilderness proposal. It has not been thoroughly evaluated. We do know that the canyons of Cedar, Parmenter and Flower Creek have excellent timber and high sites. So does Granite, although it's rockbound at the canyon mouth. Smearl Creek, Deep Creek and Snow Creek are no big deal. How about some boundary adjustments? See my maps for one try.

Ten Lakes is another question. I think it's a lousy wilderness, though a good Forest Service special use area. As presented, it contains cutting units and roads which are obviously incompatible to wilderness. We have lawsuits from environmentalists that say this, so I'm sure they'll agree to it. These must be deleted. This helps the mineral problem, but does little for oil and gas or motorized recreation. They will opt for no wilderness. You are on your own, but get those roads and clearcuts out.

Trout Creek is a rather poor wilderness as it stands. There isn't much timber involved, but there are a set of mineral claims that split the area almost in half. Should these not prove out, the loss of resource would be minimal. However, is it necessary? Does it serve some purpose? Does it just make some acres and shut up the greedy?

I do not like any more wilderness in the Flathead as I've said repeatedly with ample reason. The Swan Face does little damage to timber if a road can be built through Inspiration Pass at the north end. Proposed boundaries are not as good as the old ones, but anything for acres. Tuchuck does little damage to timber, though there is timber there. It is a better idea than Mt. Hefty. That has good timber, high oil and gas potential and other resource values. Mt. Hefty deserves to be deleted.

It is obvious that the delegation and staff have put a lot of effort into the proposal. I'm sure the results are not universally appreciated, and that you probably expected this. We appreciate the work you've done. We believe in the concept of the Montana Wilderness bill and we feel an absolute need for the revisions we propose. For starters, it's a good try. With revisions, it could be acceptable.

TABLE I

Note that timber may have a split value. The left value is the importance of the area as presented, the right value is the area with boundary changes.

Note also that this system does not do an adequate job of showing the importance of areas that might be of great importance to one industry, but of little importance to others.

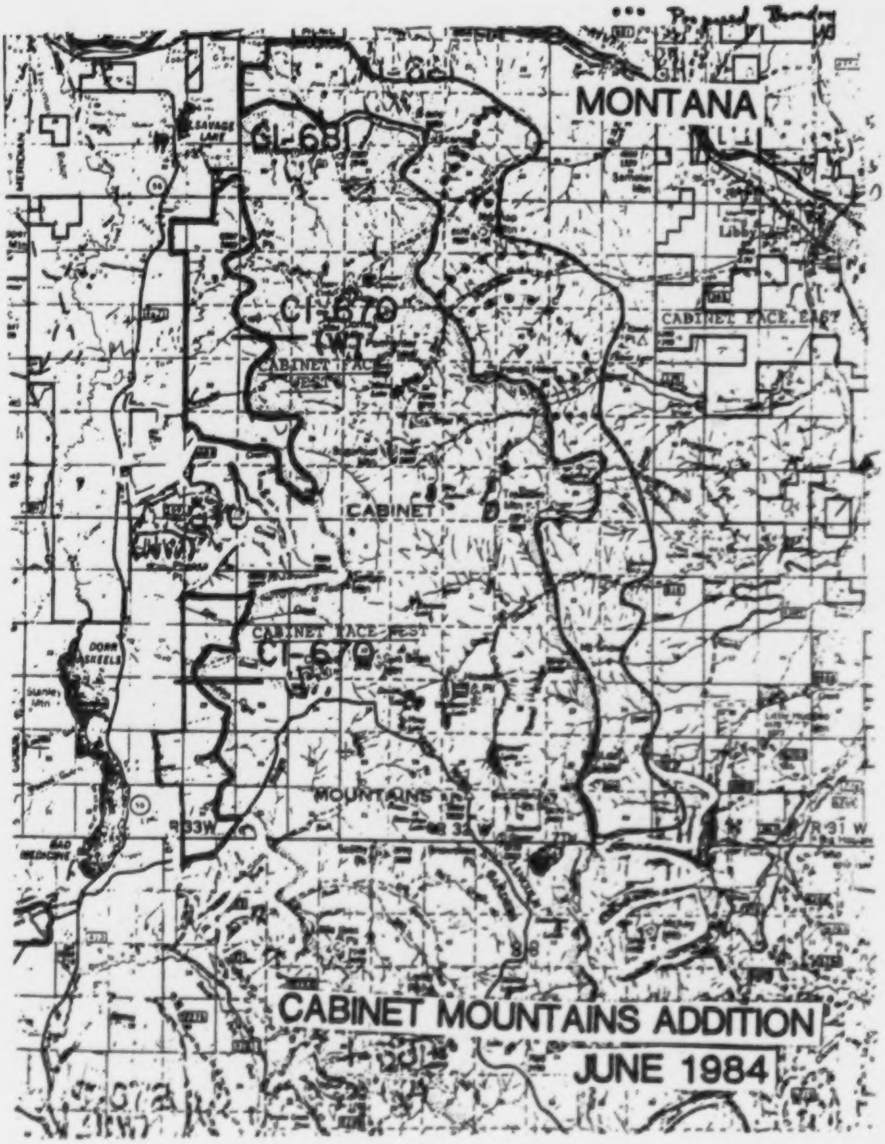
Industries participating are timber, hard rock mineral, oil and gas, grazing and motorized recreation. Values are numerical from 1 (low) to 10 (high).

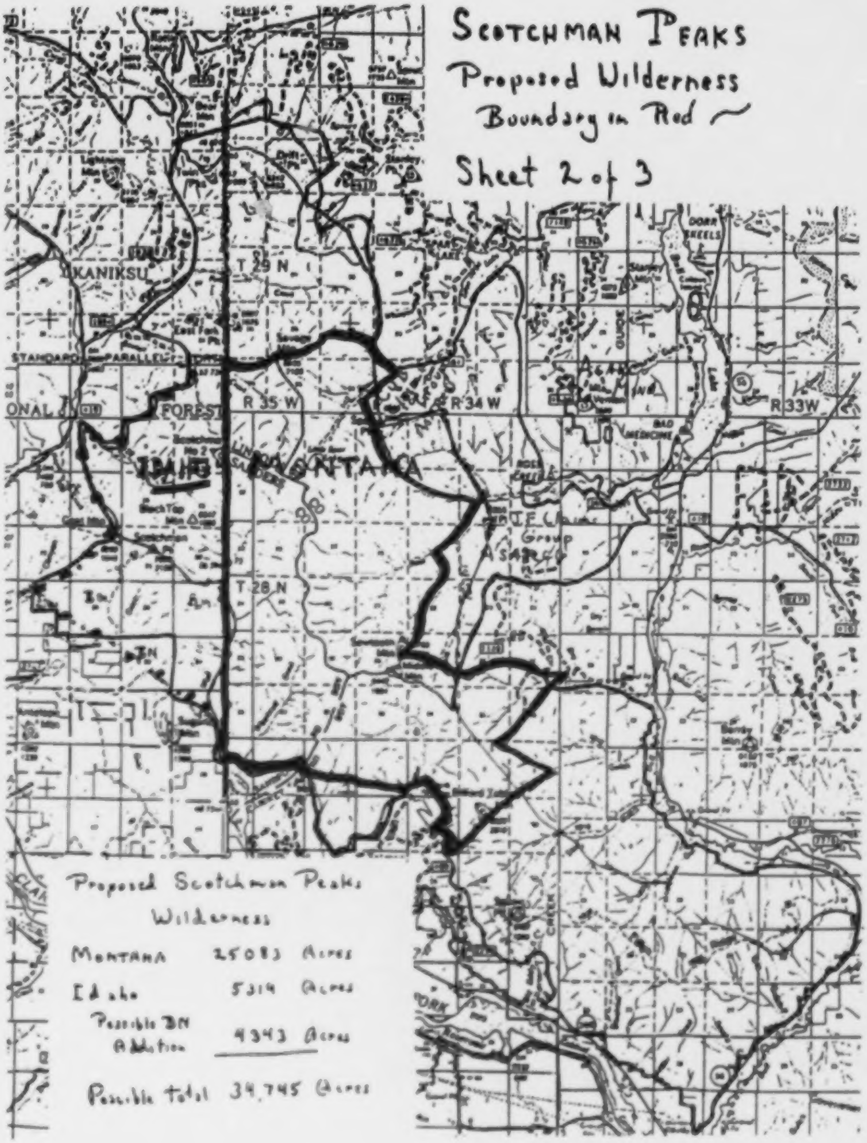
	Timber Values Possible of 10	All Resources Possible of 50	
Big Snowies	10/2	45	
E. Pioneers	9/1	42	
Flint Range	9/2	36	
Middle Fork Judith	8	34	
Elkhorns	8	33	
W. Big Hole	2	31	
Mt. Hefty	9	28	
Electric Peak	10	27	
10 Lakes	7/2	27	
Hoodoo	9/2	26	
Silver King	5/2	23	
Scotchman Peaks	10/2	22	
Deep Creek	1	22	
Italian Peak	1	21	
Trout Creek	2	21	
Renshaw	1	21	
Porcupine-Buffalo Horn	8	20	
Tuchuck	3	18	
Quigg	6	18	
N. Big Hole	9/5	17	
Cabinet Face West	9/3	16	
W. Pioneers	4	15	
Swan Front	4/1	15	
Silver King-Falls Creek	2	15	
Clearwater-Monture	0	13	oil & gas, mineral
Chippewa	9/2	13	
Lionhead	6	13	
McKay Creek	0	12	mineral

- continued -

TABLE I (Continued)

	Timber Values Possible of 10	All Resources Possible of 50	
Upper E. Fork	8	12	
Meadow Creek	4	11	
Bitterroot Canyon Mouths	4	11	
Republic Mountain	1	11	mineral
Cabinet Face East	5/1	11	
Jewel Basin	0	10	oil & gas
Swift Creek and Needle Creek	6	10	
Storm Lake	5	9	private land in
Hyalite	1	5	
Trapper Creek	0	4	
Nelson Lake	0	4	
Lolo Creek	0	4	
Mission Mountain Add.	1	4	
Big Log	0	0	
Lost Water Canyon	0	0	

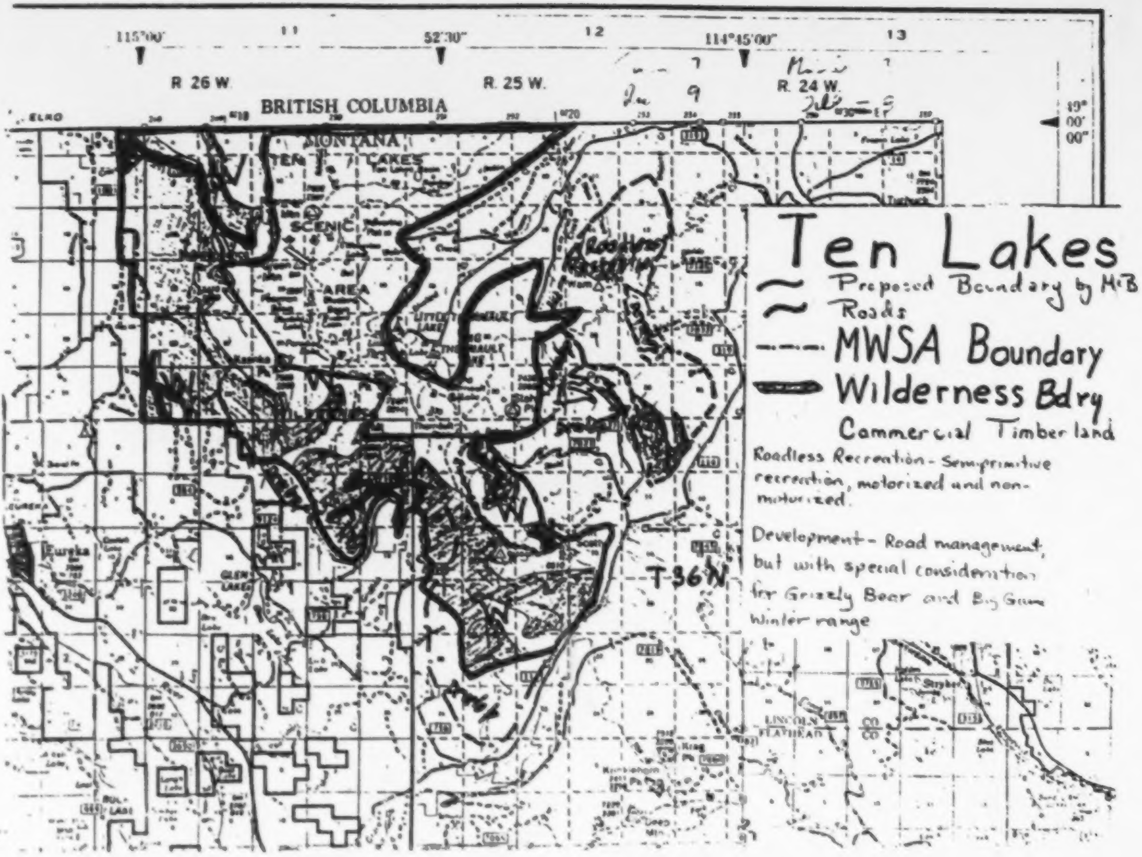

••• Proposed Boundary
MONTANA
GL-681
SAVAGE LAKE
CI-670
CABINET FACE WEST
CABINET FACE EAST
Libby
CABINET
CABINET FACE WEST
CI-670
DORR SKEELS
MOUNTAINS
R 33W
R 32
R 31 W
CABINET MOUNTAINS ADDITION
JUNE 1984


KANIKSU
STANDARD PARALLEL
ONAL
FOREST
T 29 N
T 28 N
R 35 W
R 34 W
R 33W
IDAHO
MONTANA
BAD MEDICINE
J.F.C. Group
ASARCO

Scotchman Peaks
Proposed Wilderness
Boundary in Red ~
Sheet 2 of 3

Proposed Scotchman Peaks
Wilderness

Montana	25083	Acres
Idaho	5319	Acres
Possible BN Addition	4343	Acres
Possible total	34,745	Acres


Ten Lakes
Proposed Boundary by M.B
Roads
MWSA Boundary
Wilderness Bdry
Commercial Timberland
Roadless Recreation - Semiprimitive recreation, motorized and non-motorized.
Development - Road management, but with special consideration for Grizzly Bear and Big Game Winter range
T 36 N
115°00'
52'30"
114°45'00"
11
12
13
R 26 W.
R 25 W.
R 24 W.
BRITISH COLUMBIA
MONTANA
TEN LAKES
SCENIC
AREA
ELKO
Eureka
GLEN LAKE
LINCOLN
FLATHEAD
49° 00' 00"

STATEMENT OF JOHN ULRICH, F.H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO., DILLON, MT

Mr. ULRICH. Senator Melcher, members of the staff, my name is John Ulrich, and I am employed as regional manager for F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. in Dillon, MT. F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. has three sawmills in Montana, located in Dillon, Columbia Falls, and Darby, MT. These mills directly employ 350 people with a total payroll of $6,600,000 a year. In addition the loggers who provide logs for these mills employ about 150 people with an estimated payroll of $3 million.

F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber reluctantly supports Senate bill 2850, the Montana wilderness bill, providing a few minor boundary changes can be made. Rather than take up time in this hearing, we would like to file a detailed statement after the hearing outlining these proposed changes and our reasons for wanting them.

Our company has decided to support this bill only because we feel it is in everyone's best interest to have some legislation which will effectively ajudicate the land management controversies which have polarized the State of Montana for the past 15 years.

In supporting this bill, we would like to point out that we do not feel that any more wilderness is in the best interest of the State because we already have designated much more land to wilderness than can reasonably be justified in 3,400,000 acres.

In classifying land to wilderness, you are condemning it to devastation by insects, disease, and fire. This classification precludes any commodity production and limits use of the land to only water production and limited amenity values.

This wilderness bill will probably cause the loss of another sawmill in the western part of the State. We estimate that approximately 50 percent of the total acres proposed for wilderness in this bill is commercial forest land. The forest products industry in the State is presently producing at a rate which is sustainable only because of overcutting on private lands. Public lands have not been contributing commodities at any place close to their optimum ability. Additional wilderness will move us farther away from good resource management.

As I said before, we are willing to support this bill in the interest of resolving the controversies that have pitted various resource users against each other for over 15 years. We do feel that this can be accomplished by hard and fast land classification and full release of remaining roadless areas to multiple-use status. Not having hard and fast designations only prolongs the controversy that is presently polarizing the people in our State who are interested in resource management.

At this time, I wish to introduce into the record and present to Senator Melcher and Senator Baucus 522 signed postcards opposing inclusion of the entire proposed North Big Hole addition to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness. The statements come from individuals throughout southwest Montana.

In closing, I would like to commend our congressional delegation for their courage in finally tackling this problem as it certainly is a no win situation for them from a political standpoint.

I would like to comment on a couple of questions, if possible. There was a question earlier in the hearing in regard to the possibility of accelerated timber harvest, if this bill should go through and release some lands. I would like to take you back to 1974 in the Beaverhead Forest. At that time, they came to the timber industry and asked if they failed to put up sales and develop a land management plan, could we survive for a period of time without any sales?

We reluctantly agreed. And from the period 1974 to 1978, there were no timber sales sold on the Beaverhead National Forest. We still do not have an acceptable land management plan. We still do not have the roadless area issue resolved.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear here today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ulrich follows:]

F. H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER CO.

Lumber Manufacturers

Box 389 DILLON, MONTANA 59725

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVE WATER

BILL #S. 2850

My name is John Ulrich and I am employed as regional Manager for F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. at Dillon, Montana. F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber has 3 sawmills in Montana, located at Dillon, Columbia Falls and Darby, Montana. These mills directly employ 350 people with a total payroll of $6,600,000.00 each year. In addition the loggers who provide logs for these mills employ about 150 people with an estimated payroll of $3,000,000.00 each year.

F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber reluctantly supports S. 2850, Montana Wilderness Bill, providing a few minor boundary changes can be made. Rather than take up time in this hearing we would like to file a detailed statement after the hearing outlining these proposed changes and our reasons for wanting them.

Our company decided to support this bill only because we feel it is in everyones best interest to have some legislation which effectively ajudicates the land management controversies which have polarized the State of Montana for the past 15 years.

In supporting this bill we would like to point out that we do not feel that any more wilderness is in the best interest of the state because we already have designated much more land to Wilderness than can reasonably be justified.

In classifying land to Wilderness you are condemning it to devastation by insects, disease and fire. This classification precludes any commodity production and limits use of the land to only water production and limited amenity values.

This wilderness bill will probably cause the loss of another sawmill in the western part of the state. We estimate that approximately 50% of the total acres proposed for wilderness in this bill is commercial forest land. The forest products industry in the state is presently producing at a rate which is sustainable only because of overcutting on private lands. Public lands have not been contributing commodities at any place close to their optimum ability. Additional wilderness will move us farther away from good resource management.

As I said before we are willing to support this bill in the interest of resolving the controversies that have pitted various resource users against each other for over 15 years. We do feel that this can be accomplished by hard and fast land classification and full release of remaining roadless land to a multiple use status. Not having hard and fast designations only prolongs the controversy that is presently polarizing the people in our state who are interested in resource management.

In closing I would like to commend our Congressional delegation for their courage in finally tackling this problem as it certainly is a no win situation for them from a political standpoint.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear here today.

August 20, 1984

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVE WATER BILL #S 2850

My name is John Ulrich and I am employed as regional Manager for F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co. at Dillon, Montana. F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber has 3 sawmills in Montana, located at Dillon, Columbia Falls and Darby. These mills directly employ 350 people with a total payroll of $6,600,000.00 each year. In addition, the loggers who provide logs for these mills employ about 150 people with an estimated payroll of $3,000,000.00 each year. Our sawmills rely on National Forest Land to supply approximately 85% of our raw material needs.

F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber reluctantly supports S. 2850, Montana Wilderness Bill, providing a few minor changes can be made. Our company decided to support this bill only because we feel it is in everyones best interest to have some legislation which effectively ajudicates the land management controversies which have polarized the State of Montana for the past 15 years.

In supporting this bill we would like to point out that we do not feel that any more wilderness is in the best interest of the state. The 3.4 million acres we now have designated as Wilderness is more than can reasonably be justified. In classifying land to Wilderness you are condemning it to devastation by insects, disease and fire. This classification precludes any commodity production and limits use of the land to only water production and limited amenity values.

This wilderness bill will probably cause the loss of another sawmill in the western part of the state. We estimate that approximately 50% of the total acres proposed for wilderness in this bill is commercial forest land. The forest products industry in the state is presently producing at a rate which is sustainable only because of overcutting on private lands. Public lands have not been contributing commodities at any place close to their optimum ability. Additional wilderness will move us farther away from good resource management.

As I said before, we are willing to support this bill in the interest of resolving the controversies that have pitted various resource users against each other for over 15 years. We do feel that this can be accomplished by hard and fast land classification and full release of remaining roadless land to a multiple use status. Not having hard and fast designations only prolongs the controversy that is presently polarizing the people in our state who are interested in resource management.

Our recommendations for specific changes in the bill are as follows:

EAST PIONEERS

We wish to request a boundary change in the Northwest corner of the proposed area. Our recommended boundary change would start on Jacobson Creek and follow Tr.#269 in a northwesterly direction to where the trail leaves the area in Sec 3 on Gold Creek. This area contains 7,007 gross acres, with a suitable timber acreage of 5,834 acres. This area also contains portions of two grazing allotments that support 381 animal unit months of Grazing. (See Map - Exhibit A)

WEST BIG HOLE

We have no objections to this area being treated as a further planning area. We would support some Wilderness in the area on the north half, approximately 17,330 acres as shown on the map (Exhibit B). This area contains approximately 5,100 acres of suitable timber.

ITALIAN PEAKS

We Have no objections to Wilderness classification for this area. There are 1,616 acres of suitable timber in the proposed area. No boundary changes are necessary.

WEST PIONEERS

We have no objections to your proposal for a West Pioneer Recreation Area. Your proposal is similar to the proposal contained in the Land Management Plan for the Beaverhead National Forest.

We think that it is important that you should know this Recreation Area contains 46,285 acres of suitable timber with a potential yield of 2.6 MBF. Since most of this timbered acreage is lodge pole pine, it presents a large breeding ground for a potential epidemic build up of Mountain Pine Beetle.

We support this proposal only on the basis that the remaining 80,000 acres of the study area will be managed for Multiple Use and development.

ANACONDA PINTLER ADDITION

The only add on from the Beaverhead National Forest we will support is the Forest Service recommended area B1001 for 6,571 acres. This area contains 3,850 acres of suitable timber. We cannot support the additional 3,960 acres as proposed in the bill due to the 2,948 acres of suitable timber in this add on. See maps Exhibit C for the boundary of the area we will support.

On the Deerlodge National Forest proposed addition we recommend that Area 1-426 be dropped. Approximately 60% of this area is suitable timber and a 3.0 MBF sale is presently planned in the Dexter Basin Area.

In Area 1-427 we recommend that the area Northwest of the trail from Twin Lakes to Storm Lakes be excluded.

ELECTRIC PEAK AREA

We oppose any classification of this area as it contains approximately 80% suitable timber acres.

FLINT RANGE

We seriously question any Wilderness classification in this area. All of the developed lakes should be excluded as well as the suitable timber acreage tributary to Boulder Creek. Our recommendation is that the area be a special recreation management area to provide for existing motorized and non-motorized recreation use.

LION HEAD

We recommend a boundary change as shown on Exhibit C-1. This change would eliminate a good percentage of the suitable timber acreage.

SELWAY BITTERROOT ADDITION

Areas #1061 Blodget Canyon, #1062 N. Fork Lost Horse and all of Area 1BAA are all heavily used by recreationists. These areas should be managed in the forest plan to permit this use and should not be classified for Wilderness. There is considerable suitable timber acreage in the east side of all of these areas that should be managed for timber production.

The following areas should be excluded from further consideration as Wilderness: #1063 Trapper Creek, #1064 Nelson Lake, M1845 Meadow Creek, #1065 Swift Creek, #1066 Meedle Creek. It is our opinion that these areas will better meet public needs by leaving them in full Multiple Use status. This will permit the Forest Service to manage for the heavy recreation use in these areas.

MOUNT HEFTY I 481

This area is not of true Wilderness quality. There are approximately 8,560 acres of suitable timber. These acres contain over 30 MBF of sawtimber. The Forest Service estimates that the long term allowable cut on the entire area would be over 2.0 MBF per year. If the delegation feels strongly that some wilderness is needed there, the East boundary line should be shifted back to the township line between R22W and R23W. The present line as shown abuts entirely against fee land with the exception of one ¼ mile wide area in the Southeast corner.

TUCHUCK I 482

This area is an uninspiring unroaded area which was heavily burned in 1929. Burned areas have generally regenerated satisfactorily. Present sawtimber area is about 5,440 acres of merchantable sized timber and the Forest Service estimates that it will support an annual allowable cut of 1,306 thousand board feet per year. We do not support this area as wilderness because of the potential for timber and because it really is just undeveloped land and would not be a meaningful addition to the Wilderness system.

SWAN FRONT

This proposed wilderness area consists of 55,730 total acres. Commercial forest land is 14,640 acres and the Forest Service estimate of annual allowable cut on this acreage is 3,514 thousand board feet per year. The portion of this area that is not commercial timber land is steep and rocky and would never be developed under any management status. The proposed West boundary line in many places does not follow section lines so that it will be difficult to know where the line is if it is designated as Wilderness.

This whole proposal is ill conceived as the present Bob Marshall Wilderness boundary follows the topographic summit and is the natural boundary line. We think that this whole area should be retained as a multiple use area. It would allow timber harvest of about 3 million board feet per year (66 jobs) and the other area is a natural area for recreation and it would serve as a buffer against the west boundary of the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area.

MISSION MOUNTAIN ADDITION

This 960 acres is about ½ commercial timberland and is bordered on the west by fee land. We would not recommend this as wilderness as it doesn't add anything to the Mission Mountain Wilderness Area.

We have commented on approximately 12 areas that are in the working circles of our 3 sawmills. On these areas we estimate that if given wilderness status, there would be a reduction in allowable timber cut of about 16 million board feet on the Flathead, Bitterroot, Deerlodge and Beaverhead Forests. This volume of timber will create or save about 112 full time jobs in the Forest Products Industry and each of these 112 jobs will create or save 2 other supportive jobs in local economies. We have to question if the creation of these new wilderness areas are worth 336 jobs in a state presently plagued by double digit unemployment.

John A. Ulrich

Exhibit A.

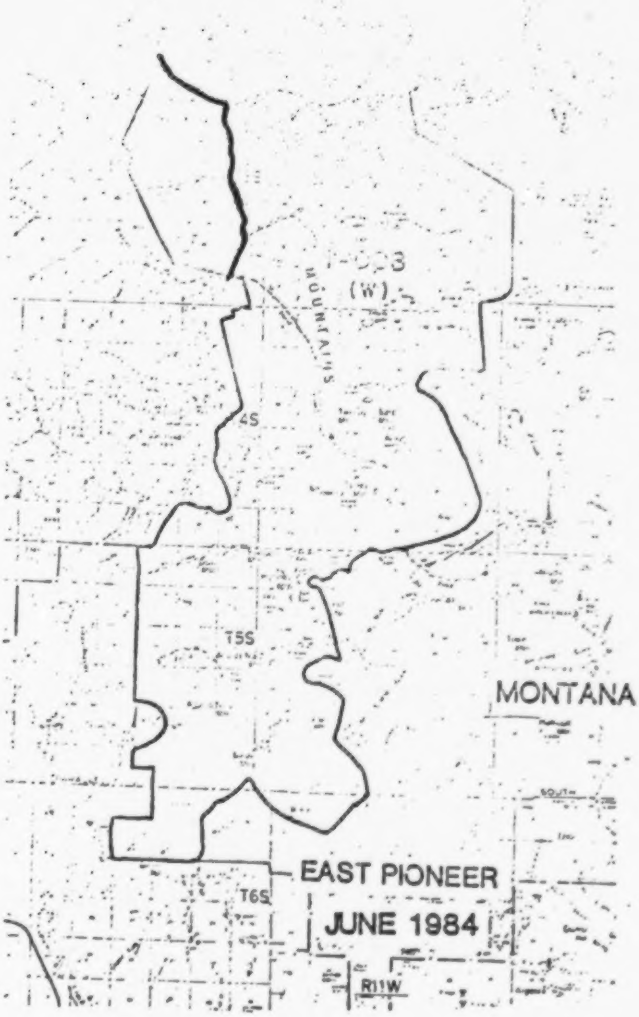

MOUNTAINS
(W)
4S
T5S
T6S
MONTANA
EAST PIONEER
JUNE 1984
R11W

Exhibit B

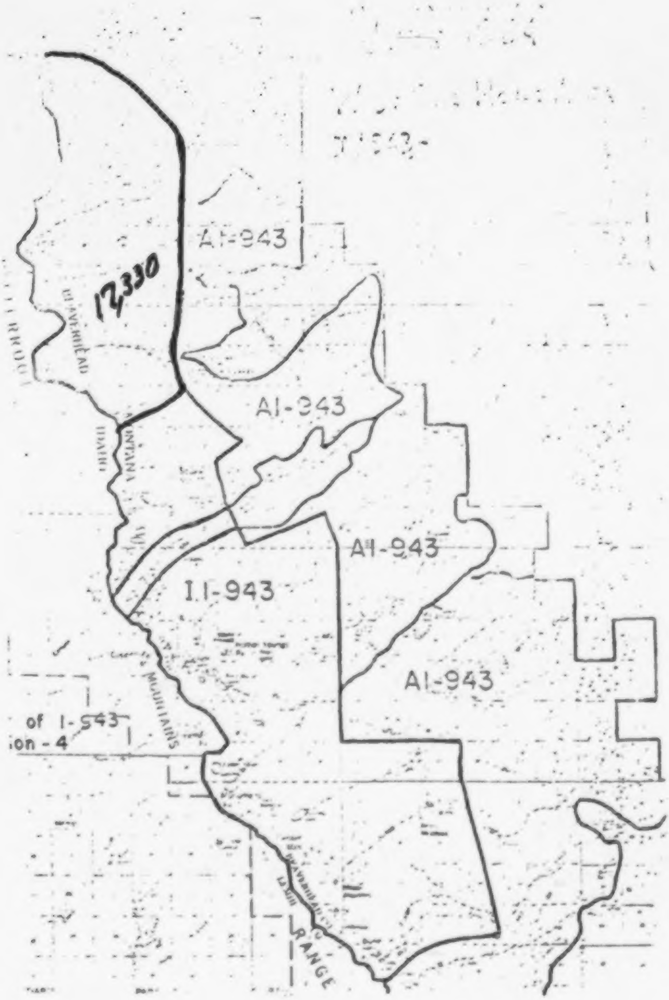

AI-943
17,330
BEAVERHEAD
BITTERROOT
AI-943
MONTANA
IDAHO
AI-943
I.I-943
AI-943
MOUNTAINS
of I-543
ion - 4
RANGE

Exhibit C

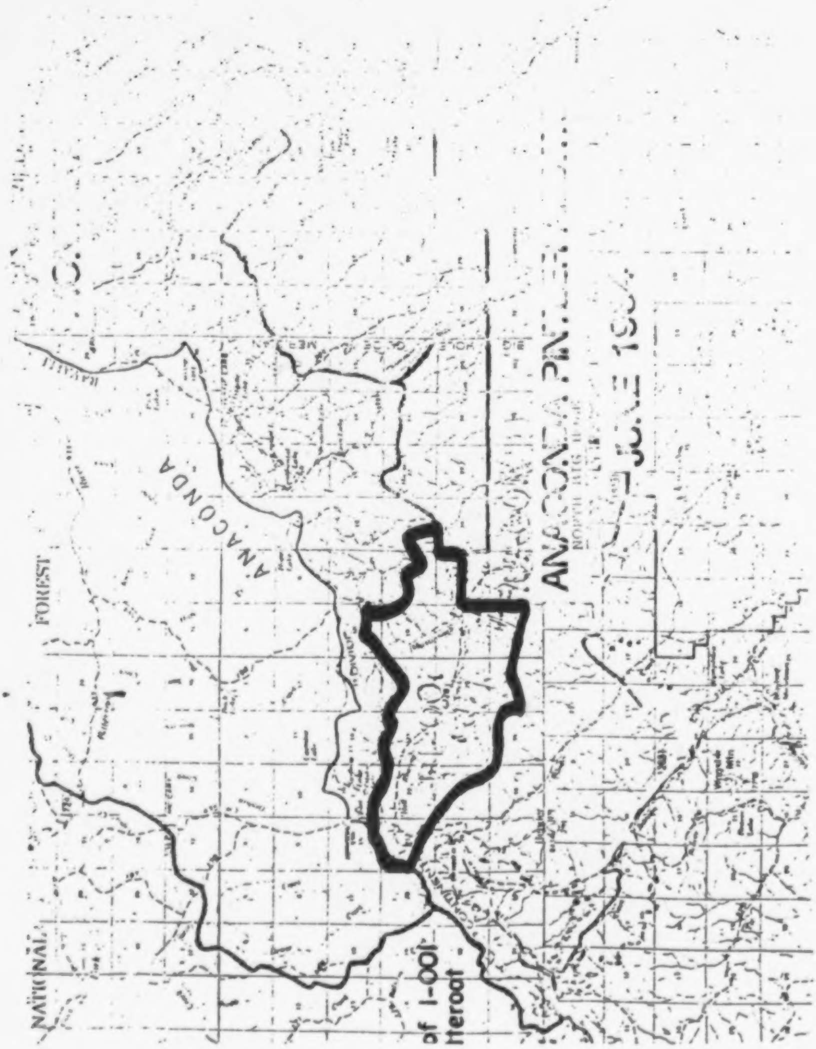
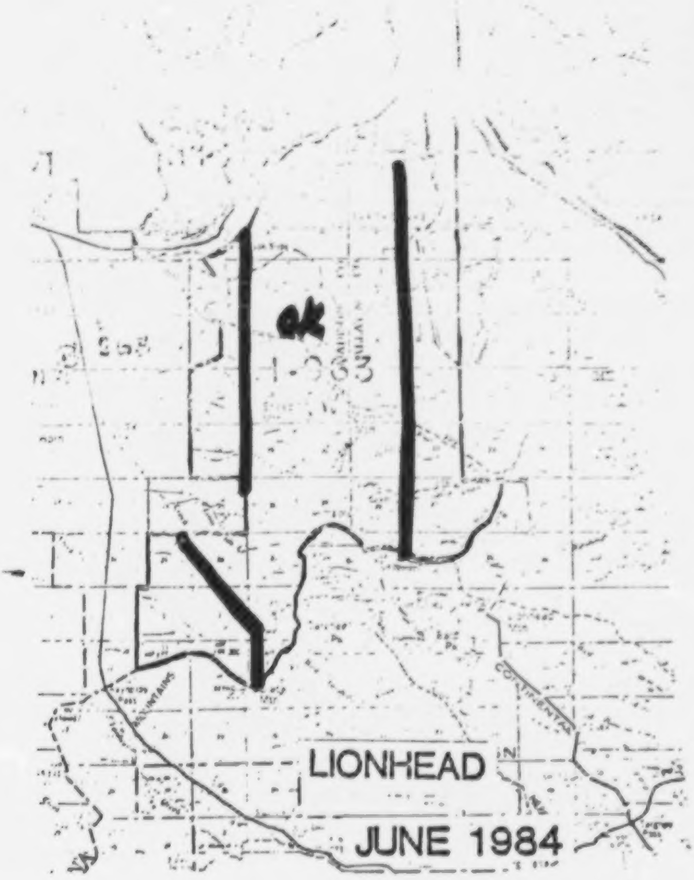

NATIONAL
FOREST
ANACONDA
ANACONDA PIN
JUNE 196
of I-001
tteroot

Exhibit C-1


ok
CONTINENTAL
MOUNTAINS
LIONHEAD
JUNE 1984

Senator **Melcher**. Thank you. Is Tom Osborne here? He was here. Is he here now? I guess not.

Thank you all very much. I appreciate your testimony.

Senator **Baucus**. Mr. Chairman, one question. I understand there is a time bind here. The industry as I understand it, Gary, I know you represent another industry, at least as far as the products industry wants a bill, I understand that. Is the forest products industry agreeable to including more acreage in order to get a bill?

Mr. **Ulrich**. Max, that is a pretty tough question to answer, but I would call your attention to the fact that Montana has 3.4 million acres of wilderness now. In the 11 years that I have been employed at F.H. Stoltze, I have watched 10 forest products facilities close in western Montana. The industry has tried and tried to compromise and we keep getting the dirty end of the stick, gentlemen.

I think we are about to the point, I am at the point I can no longer back any additional wilderness beyond what is in the bill. Minor adjustments, yes, but when it involves closing dinner buckets and closing sawmills, gentlemen, I cannot support it.

Mr. **McBride**. We had a proposal that we can live with that was about a half-million acres. We can go up from half-million and start to give, but to start at what to us is 1.2 million acres and go up from there, I don't think we can stand it.

Senator **Baucus**. What if the special management areas were excluded, and we started with roughly 750,000 acres, how far can we go up from there?

Mr. **McBride**. I would have to study it. I hate to give you a guess on it and turn out to be wrong.

Senator **Baucus**. Thank you. I look forward to your study.

Senator **Melcher**. Thank you all very much.

Our next panel is Bob Garner, Trail Bike Riders; Bob Bushnell, Montana Snowmobile Association; Joe Dixon, Champlin Petroleum Corp.; Max Pitcher, North American Exploration, Conoco, Inc.; George Berg, Berg Lumber Co.; Paul Johnson, Montanans for Protection of the Big Hole; and Cheri Johnson, Jackson, MT.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT W. GARNER, TRAIL BIKE RIDERS, BOZEMAN, MT

Mr. **Garner**. Senators Melcher and Baucus, my name is Bob Garner. I live in Bozeman, MT. My testimony is presented on behalf of the average recreationist of the State. In addition, I am here representing the 140,000-national-membership of the American Motorcycle Association.

With a few wording solutions in the areas of Electric Peak, Flint Creek, and Ten Lakes, as will be detailed in the testimony of Bob Bushnell, of the Montana Snowmobile Association, we would like to be able to support S. 2850, the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984.

Specifically, we would like to see wording added to sections 8 and 9, dealing with two special management areas on the Gallatin National Forest. In addition to the wording already contained in these sections, we would like the words "motorized and nonmotorized recreation" included so that it is clear that these areas will be managed for such general recreation as well as for the protection of scenic and wildlife values as they are mentioned in the bill.

Also, we would like to see language elsewhere in the bill changed to avoid confusion. Specifically we would like the words "primitive and semiprimitive roadless recreation" stricken wherever they appear.

I have listed in my written testimony submitted for the record at least seven such portions of the bill where we would like to see these words deleted.

Of all of the recreational visitor days on all U.S. Forest Service lands, only 3.6 percent are demanded for designated wilderness areas. That means that over 96 percent of all recreational visitor demand is for nonwilderness forest service land. So we see no legitimate reason for taking the land supply away from the majority of recreationists and creating private enclaves for less than 4 percent of all recreationists in the Forest Service lands.

We would like to add to that with a comment from the Montana Fish and Wildlife Department, which has published a report, which says that while an equal number of statewide Montana residents participate in four-wheel driving recreation as participate in river floating or canoeing, the median number of days in which four-wheel drive recreationists participate in their own recreational activities is double that of the river floaters and canoers.

This report also states that an equal number of Montana resident recreationists ride motorcycles as they ride horses, but that the median number of days in which motorcyclists participate in their own recreational activities is 40 percent greater than that of horseback riders. We want our Federal lands to be truly public. We want to see an end to unfair restrictions and prohibitions against popular motorized recreation activities, such as four-wheel driving, motorized camping, trail bike riding, snowmobiling, et cetera.

The intent of this bill, as the average recreationist understands it, is to maintain a variety of uses on public lands in Montana. We support that intent. We do not like to see any recreation users unfairly restricted, but with more than 96 percent of all recreational demand being for nonwilderness public land, it is clear that additional wilderness designation works against reality.

We appreciate the support of the American Motorcyclist Association and recognize the self-evident truth that trail bike riding is a legitimate use of our public lands and that it is an activity which is compatible with the national ideal of environmental protection.

We would like everyone to remember that ORV recreationists share the same feelings about the outdoors that nonmotorized recreationists do. Our activities are physically and spiritually fulfilling to us and we would like to see those activities protected in this and other legislation.

Thank you for your time.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Garner follows:]

August 9, 1984

TESTIMONY

of

ROBERT W. GARNER
916 S. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715

Before The
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water
of the
Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Regarding a Bill Introduced in the Senate of the United States

S.2850

Montana Wilderness Act of 1984

FOR THE RECORD

My name is Bob Garner. I live in Bozeman, Montana. I am here today to testify on behalf of people, the kind of people that this bill -- S.2850 -- was written for. These people comprise the 70% of Montana residents who, according to the 1982 Montana Poll, state that Montana has enough or too much legislatively restricted "wilderness." In presenting this testimony, I also have the support of the 140,000-member American Motorcyclist Association headquartered in Westerville, Ohio, and an assortment of facts and figures to question any further additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

With a few wording changes, but no more wilderness or pseudo-wilderness added, we would all like to see this Bill passed.

Specifically, we would like to see wording added to Sections 8 and 9, dealing with two Special Management areas on the Gallatin National Forest. In addition to the scenic and wildlife values already mentioned in these sections, we would like wording added which makes it clear that these areas (Hyalite Peak Scenic Area, Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wildlife Area) will also be managed for "motorized and non-motorized recreation," which is the stated intent of planners, legislators and the Forest Service supervisor who cooperated in preparing this portion of the Bill.

Also, we would like to see wording elsewhere in the bill changed to avoid confusion, conflict and endless semantic and legalistic bickering. Specifically, we do not like language such as "primitive and semiprimitive roadless recreation" because there are often historically used off-road trailbike and other motorized recreational opportunities in these areas. While such wording as "semiprimitive and primitive roadless recreation" does not automatically exclude trailbikes, such language is easily manipulated and pressure brought to bear to exclude trailbikes by special interest groups who do not want such legitimate recreation allowed.

We would therefore like such reference to "primitive and semi-primitive roadless recreation" stricken wherever it appears, such as in Sec.11(a) "West Pioneer Recreation Area," Sec.11(b) "Ten Lakes Recreation Area," Sec.11(c) "Middle Fork Judith Recreation Area," Sec.11(d) "Big Snowies Recreation Area," Sec.12(b) "Silver King Special Management Area," Sec.12(c) "Renshaw Special Management Area," Sec.13 "Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area," and any other sections where such language might be used, but not mentioned here.

The intent of this bill, as the average recreationist understands it, is to maintain a wide variety of uses on public lands in Montana. We support that intent. We do not want to see any recreational users unfairly restricted, but with 96% of all recreational visitor demand being for NON-WILDERNESS public land, we see no legitimate reason for adding to the wilderness system at this time.

Current controversy over "wilderness" is due to the fact that lands now being sought for inclusion in the wilderness system are lands being used by many different people for many different purposes.

As far as recreational use is concerned, there are 460-million recreational visitor days (RVDs) on all federal lands (1980). Of this, 233-million RVDs is on National Forest lands.

Wilderness recreational use accounts for less than four percent (3.6%) of all National Forest Service RVDs. Almost all of that amount (89% of it) is on the original 9-million acres of wilderness designated in 1965. Wilderness areas added since 1965 (an additional 71-million acres) are thus used only infinitessimally, and there is no recreational justification for adding still more "wilderness" to the system.

If wilderness advocates were to get all they want for wilderness, including the current 80-million acres, the total National Wilderness Preservation System would amount to 113-million acres. Why?

We want these federal lands to be truly public. We want to see an end to the unfair restrictions and prohibitions against popular motorized recreational activities such as four-wheel driving, motorized camping, trailbike riding, snowmobiling, etc.

Where appropriate and necessary, we do not want legislation to foreclose any present and future need we might have as a community of evolving people to enter public lands for the purposes of logging, mining, oil and gas exploration, livestock grazing, etc. Montana is dependent on these basic industries for its economic survival. Tourism is an irrelevant luxury without these basic industries. Resident recreation would be an impossibility for Montanans without the jobs these industries provide, and non-resident recreation would be an offensive intrusion if it took precedence over Montana's own organic acts of survival.

Tourism and the Tourist Dollar

Contrary to the image of Montana tourism promoted by advocates of never-ending amounts of restrictive "wilderness," money earned from tourism in Montana is overwhelmingly associated with motorized recreation, with developed campgrounds, hotels, motels and restaurants being the prime benefactors. People do not come to Montana in droves to seek solitude on foot in millions upon millions of acres of restricted "wilderness" areas, they come in fellowship with cars and trucks with campers and trailers and snowmobiles and motorbikes, to commune with family and friends in peace with that nature which is found everywhere in Montana, open to all the public, resident and non-resident alike. If non-resident visitors to Montana knew clearly what restrictively legislated "wilderness" is really all about, they would oppose the open-ended proliferation of these recreationally restricted areas as much as the average Montana resident does.

Much of today's glossy photograph, coffee-table wilderness book and engagement calendar environmental trendiness is based on fantasies and fears promoted by popularized media misconceptions about population trends and age-group demographics. Our people are growing older, not younger, our population growth is steadying-to-declining, not continuously increasing.

A mythical population bomb is not exploding. Montana's natural environment is not being destroyed. Visitors to Montana believe at all times that they are in the wilderness, wherever they are, whenever they are in Montana. Interstate 90 travels through the wilderness, as far as tourists are concerned.

This subcommittee has the opportunity to set the record straight about Montana wilderness, recreation and reality, and that's what my appearance, my testimony, and the further material submitted here for the record is intended to achieve.

The Average Recreationist

The average recreationist, both resident and non-resident in Montana, is not as monochromatic, monolithic or as singleminded a user of public lands as "wilderness" promoters suggest. Among other things, Montana recreational activities include:

camping, picnicking, backpacking, day hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, visiting historical sites, river floating, motorcycling, snowmobiling, four-wheel driving, fishing, hunting, skiing, bird watching, photography, swimming, golf, tennis, boating, walking, pleasure driving, bicycling, etc.

Unjustified Bias Against Motorized Recreation

According to research published by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (1983 Montana Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan):

- an equal number of statewide Montana residents participate in four-wheel driving recreation as participate in floating or canoeing

- an equal number of Montana resident recreationists ride motorcycles as ride horses

- an equal number of Montana resident recreationists ride snowmobiles as who cross-country ski

It is not insignificant, then, that cross-country skiers, horseback riders and river floaters tend to support legislatively restrictive "wilderness" areas, since their recreational activities are approved within these existing 80-million acres of "wilderness," while snowmobilers, motorcyclists and four-wheel drivers tend to oppose such rampant "wilderness" legislation, because their recreational choices are legislatively banned from these massive amounts of otherwise appropriate public lands.

Given the fact that 96% of all recreational demand in the U.S. is for NON-WILDERNESS opportunities, and given the fact that the above recreationally paired groups are said to be at least "equal" in numbers (which is conservative, compared to facts already mentioned), why are multiple-use opportunities on public lands being taken away while minority special interest groups are being catered to?

Further Evidence of Bias in Public Land-Use Planning

While the Montana Fish and Wildlife Department figures cited above show "equality" of numbers of those recreationists mentioned, actual use of recreational resources is actually greater among motorized recreationists.

For example, the Fish and Wildlife Department survey figures reveal that

THE MEDIAN NUMBER OF DAYS IN WHICH FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE RECREATIONISTS PARTICIPATE IN THEIR OWN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IS DOUBLE THAT OF RIVER FLOATERS AND CANOERS

and

THE MEDIAN NUMBER OF DAYS IN WHICH MOTORCYCLISTS PARTICIPATE IN THEIR OWN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES IS 40% GREATER THAN THAT OF HORSEBACK RIDERS !

Why, then, is more emphasis not placed on the needs of the motorized recreationists and other NON-WILDERNESS users of public land?

Wildlife Biologist Studies

Popular misconceptions exist concerning the effects of motorized recreation on wildlife habitat and behavior. Because urban dwellers seek in outdoor recreation an answer to their own individual spiritual confusion, they appear to assume that wildlife exist in the woods for the same urbane reasons.

These people project their own emotional content and urban anxieties onto wild animals and other natural features of permanent outdoor life, and assume that motorized vehicles disrupt the normal behavior of wildlife moreso than other recreational activities, if in fact motorized vehicles do not drive these animals insane.

(This last notion, of "insanity," was published as "fact" in a Weekly Reader publication distributed nationally to children in our public schools, an "educational" practice apparently in agreement with pronouncements in at least 50% (*) of our nation's textbooks, which "teach" our children that they are doomed to inherit a world of deserts and famine, polluted water, overpopulation and, finally, nuclear annihilation).

(*) "Why Are They Lying To Our Children?" by Herbert London, Stein & Day, 1984

Such misconceptions fostered by our media-bred "information society" are refuted by common real-world experience of thousands of ORV recreationists, as well as by wildlife biologist and other organized studies of the subject.

A U.S. Forest Service publication ("ORV Sound-Level Regulations and Their Enforcement," June 1981) states:

"Most authorities agree that the effects of ORV noise on wildlife are indistinguishable from the effects that the mere presence of humans has on the animals."

This report reminds us:

"ORV recreationists share the same feelings about the outdoors that nonmotorized recreationists do, and some of their best ORV recreation experiences are in primitive areas."

Further, the report says:

"Work in northern Canada has shown that waterfowl react to low-flying aircraft in the same manner that they react to low-flying raptors." (My emphasis).

Other biologist studies corroborate these findings, with particular application to motorized recreation.

Specifically, in a study of elk in their natural habitat in Wyoming, A. Lorin Ward and Jerry J. Cupal, research biologists at the University of Wyoming at Laramie, reported on the effects of various human activities on these animals, and found that:

heart rate response and flight reaction of the elk was significantly greater with humans approaching on foot, as compared to a human riding a 100cc trailbike. The Ward and Cupal report further states that in one test:

"Finally, the elk were approached directly upwind with the motorbike. The spike got up and moved from the aspen when the motorbike was 15 meters away. The elk moved over a gentle ridge into more aspen, and the spike's heart rate returned to normal resting rate within 4 minutes."

Compare this to the report's conclusion that:

"Events such as humans on foot and gunshots produced a high percentage of positive heart rate reactions, particularly if the disturbances were within 300 meters of the elk."

"The alert reaction occurred at distances as far as 400 meters for major disturbances such as gunshots, humans seen on foot..." etc. (My emphasis).

The Ward and Cupal report, according to a publication of the Wildlife Management Institute ("Elk of North America: Ecology and Management," 1982), demonstrates that

"elk prefer to be at least 0.8 kilometer (0.5 mile) from people engaged in such activities as camping, fishing, and picnicking."

On the other hand, a trailbike ridden directly toward and in view of the elk within 15 meters had little effect on elk resting in timber.

The Ward and Cupal report also contains information showing that the approach of mule deer into the elks' resting area caused greater heart-rate response and alarm in the elk than was recorded during the approach of the trailbike.

All of this information refutes the commonly held "assumption" that motorized vehicle recreation is disruptive of wildlife "security."

The full report is on file with each member of the Montana Congressional Delegation, and a copy has been presented to this subcommittee. Its findings are corroborated by the everyday experience of individual motorcyclists and snowmobilers throughout Montana.

Random Facts About Motorcycles in Montana

Of all 50 states of the United States, Montana ranks equally with two other states as having the highest number of motorcycles per 100 population. The annual economic value of the retail marketplace of motorcycles in Montana is equal to or greater than that of one-third the states in the United States. Despite Montana's sparse population, half the states in the U.S. have fewer motorcycle retail outlets than Montana. The motorcycle is obviously a popular vehicle in this state, where one-third of acreage is public land (only two states have more bikes per

100 population riding off-road motorcycles).

Since motorcyclists tend to be people who would rather go riding than to attend political meetings and quote facts and figures to defend their right to ride, the levels of political pollution they create is even lower than the less than one percent of the total nationwide hydrocarbon emissions their vehicles produce. Even though motorcyclists are healthy people (in tests conducted by the National Athletic Health Institute, motocrossers outscored other professional athletic groups in every category, thus being declared the most physically fit of all professional athletes), the delusion exists that motorcycling is an unhealthy activity.

It is time to put an end to confusion about what these people are all about.

The American Motorcyclist Association and S.2850

The 140,000-member American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) supports our efforts in seeking legislative protection for the average Montana recreationist, resident and non-resident, on whose behalf I am testifying.

As we ourselves do, the AMA promotes multiple use of public lands with a balanced approach towards recreational activity and environmental responsibility.

As we ourselves recognize, the AMA recognizes that trailbike riding is a legitimate use of our public lands, and is an activity which is compatible with the national ideal of environmental protection.

As we ourselves in Montana acknowledge, the AMA acknowledges that every action of mankind, and every action of every wild animal, and of every windstorm, and thunderstorm, and snowstorm, has an effect on the environment. But not all of this effect can be called damage. Not all change is detrimental. Not all progress is to be avoided.

Our entire environment has evolved through change and cultivation of change. If millions of years ago a minority voice spoke out to oppose change, as that vocal minority does so aggressively today, we human beings, along with our wildlife friends and relatives, might not be here at all to discuss these important matters.

Human activity is not intended to be banned. In protecting our beautiful Montana environment, human activity can be planned, but it can not be banned.

Banning is not planning.

We welcome the AMA's recognition, along with our own, that multiple use of public lands is intrinsic to all environmental evolution, human and animal alike, mineral and vegetable alike, and that trailbike riding is a natural extension of horseback riding, from the past into the future.

If horseback riding is environmentally acceptable in legislated "wilderness" areas, then trailbike riding is a definite improvement. Trailbikes are akin to horses, but with a greater bias in the direction of environmental consciousness.

Horses belong in wilderness.
Trailbikes belong in wilderness.
People belong in wilderness.

We welcome the AMA's recognition of these everyday truths in supporting our God-given right to continue to evolve in a positive fashion without interruption by those would like to stop the world in order to search for "solitude."

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Garner

Robert W. Garner
916 S. Willson
Bozeman, MT 59715

Manhattan Montana
Aug 1/84

Dear Sirs:

We are fighting for our rights of enjoying all our Country! Driving back into the most beautiful mountains in the world (we think) is the one gift we recieved from our Lord, that we dont want taken away. The freedom of Choosing the mountains we want to spend hours or few days, on Mountain bikes, 4 wheel drive Trucks snow mobile or what have you. Where the roads are kept up even in Cars. If you have never done it you've missed one of the most enjoyable times of beauty, peace, and at times companships with other familys out of the main stream of fast living. Nothing like getting way back, tasting the pure mountain streams, watching the precious Wild game eating and resting nothing bothering them like disturbs so many down by the highways.

We love this kind of life after working sometimes 13, 14 hours a day six full days a week we need it and you do to.

We have enough closed off areas, keep the rest open please. Your friends Leo & Violet Robbins

STATEMENT OF BOB BUSHNELL, VICE PRESIDENT, MONTANA SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION, HELENA, MT

Mr. BUSHNELL. Senator Melcher and Senator Baucus, I am Bob Bushnell, the vice president of the Montana Snowmobile Association. I was born in Helena, MT, and I have lived there all of my life.

The Montana Snowmobile Association represents all of the snowmobilers in the State of Montana. The thought of being restricted from the sites and scenes of Montana, my home State, when I have the time in the winter causes me great concern. The beauty of the Montana summers is possible only by the deep white winters which are every bit as spectacular and enjoyable. Family fun during the winter months is enhanced when touring our Big Skies day or night on a snowmobile.

The Montana delegation has done a good job in introducing this well-planned and thought out bill. We do not agree with all of it, however. We realize that many points have to be considered.

In the Anaconda-Pitlar Wilderness addition, there is a very heavily used trail which joins the Twin Lakes and Storm Lake. This is an important trail ridden by many of those people in that portion of the State.

The Italian Peak proposed wilderness area has a heavy use outside of the boundaries. However, inside the boundaries there is a small usage only. The East Pioneer Wilderness Area has many trails inside its boundaries and with an adjustment from the north and the south, we believe that a smaller area could be agreed upon.

In the Beaverhead and Selway additions, one short trail is used up the North Fork. However, it is so short that it is not of great concern.

The Hoodoo area also has two low use trails. These could be sacrificed. The Quigg proposed wilderness area, with its boundaries, as they are designated at the present time, leave our trails and play areas outside the proposed wilderness area.

In the Deer Lodge and Helena National Forest, the Electric Peak Wilderness proposal has many heavy use trails which cross in all directions. We feel that a boundary change would be difficult to identify and enforce. I have enclosed a map of this area.

In the Deer Lodge National Forest, the proposed Flint Range Area also has many heavy trails which are used. Also, light use trails are crossing the area. We do not feel that this area should be included in the Wilderness Act. See the map also that was enclosed.

The Helena National Forest, the Gates of the Mountains addition is used very little and it also would have to be sacrificed.

In the Custer National Forest, this area is used very little and would probably be acceptable as a wilderness. We do, however, believe in the exclusion of the Goose Lake Area from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, since this area was a heavily ridden area prior to becoming a wilderness.

On the Flathead National Forest, the Mount Hefty proposed area has a heavy use trial which crosses the middle of that area. The Tuchuck proposed area has boundaries which allow for our continued trail use around the outside.

In the Kootenai National Forest, we believe that the Ten Lakes area is the highest ridden in that portion of the State and should be excluded from this bill. We doubt that the average snow depth of 12 feet allows for the game range that has been suggested.

The special management areas which allow us to use the properties as stated in the bill do not cause us any problems. I feel that the boundaries established for the major portions of this bill are acceptable. Flint Creek, Electric Peak and Ten Lakes should not be wilderness because it closes out three much used areas. When combined with the losses in other proposed areas, it totally isolates us.

Any other considerations for wilderness would have to be closely reviewed, since most areas under the RARE II study have high usage. With these minor changes, we fully support the bill and encourage an early vote and passage.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Bushnell follows:]

STATEMENT OF THE MONTANA SNOWMOBILE ASSOCIATION
FOR the
SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LAND AND RESERVED WATER
9 August 1984 Washington, DC

Mr Chairman and Members of the Senate Subcommittee

The Montana Snowmobile Association represents snowmobile clubs within the state of Montana, individual members, and associate members desiring to further snowmobile recreation. Our purpose is to be active in all phases of the users affairs and to represent their concerns. The thought of being restricted from seeing and riding Montana, when we have the time in the winter, causes great concern. The beauty of the Montana summers is possible only by the deep white winters which are every bit as spectacular and enjoyable. Family fun during the winter months is enhanced when touring our Big Skies day or night on a snowmobile. The Montana delegation has done an outstanding job in introducing this well planned and thought out bill. We do not agree with all of it, however, we realize that many points must be taken into consideration.

BEAVERHEAD, BITTERROOT, DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST: Entitled Anaconda-Pitlar Wilderness Proposed Additions; there is a groomed trail at present to Storm Lake which is very heavily used and it goes from there in a loop to Twin Lakes and north out of the proposed area. This trail is one of the few trails in the area and is used by riders from Anaconda, Butte, and Deerlodge. It has been used for many years and is so picturesque. No other trails are in the proposed area.

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST: Italian Peak Proposed Wilderness; the area has a trail on it, however, it is very steep and therefore not used too much. East Pioneers Proposed Wilderness; has many trails throughout the area. If a boundry adjustment could be made which would leave out the Northern and

Southern portions, heaviest used trails and play areas would be available. This boundry adjustment has been agreed to with all people of the area during the many planning meetings. (See Incl 3)

BEAVERHEAD AND LOLO NATIONAL FOREST: Selway Bitterroot Proposed Addition; are used very little and for short distances. No problems arise with these additions being made wilderness.

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST: Hoodoo Proposed Wilderness; this area has two low use trails, but they are very important to those people in the west edge of the state. Quigg Proposed Wilderness; the heavily used trail and play area are just outside the boundries of the proposed wilderness, so it will have little importance.

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST: Lost Water Canyon Proposed Wilderness; this area is not ridden to the best of our knowledge and is acceptable as wilderness.

DEERLODGE AND HELENA NATIONAL FOREST: Electric Peak Proposed Wilderness; this area which is south west of Helena and east of Deerlodge has many heavy use trails which cross the entire proposed area and a large play area is also in the center. No boundry adjustment would be feasible since all the area is used. The large number of people from Butte and Helena use the area enroute to Basin and back. Closing this area will have a great impact on the few businesses left in that small community.(See Incl 1)

DEERLODGE NATIONAL FOREST: Flint Range Proposed Wilderness; the area has many heavy use trails which cross the entire area. This area is ridden by people from Missoula, Butte, Deerlodge, Anaconda, and Philipsburg. Its use has a definite economic impact to Anaconda and Philipsburg as snowmobilers are supporters, buying gas, food, lodging etc., unlike many groups which tend to live off the land. A boundry adjustment might be possible, however, the widespread use makes it hard.

HELENA NATIONAL FOREST: Gates of the Mountains Proposed Addition; the area is used very little for snowmobiling and is acceptable for wilderness.

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST: Mount Hefty Proposed Wilderness; this area has a heavy use trail which bisects through the middle, north to south. It is one of the few riding areas in that portion of the state. Tuchuck Proposed Wilderness; our heavy use trails go around the area and are directly adjacent to it. There appears to be no conflict in this area. Mission Mountain Proposed Additions; a few short low use trails are in the area, however, we feel little concern with the proposal.

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST: North Absarorka Proposed Wilderness; (Republic Mtn) the trail to Wyoming does not pass through the proposed area. Lionhead Proposed Wilderness; the major trail is outside the proposed boundry. The trail count to Lionhead last year was 5,100 which shows what an enormous impact snowmobiling has on the entire tourist trade of the state. (Chamber of Commerce Letter Incl)

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST: Trout Creek Proposed Wilderness; has two low use trails in the area. Scotchman Peaks Proposed Wilderness; has several moderate use trails in the area, however, these are most important for those who live in the area. Cabinet Mountain Proposed Additions; have only one low use trail. Ten Lakes Proposed Wilderness; this is the highest used area in the Kootenai and is covered with moderate use trails which does not appear to lend to boundry adjustment. The road in the north west corner starts a trail that goes out the north east and south east corners of the proposed area. An economic impact to the business community will be felt. With an average snow depth of 12 feet, the alleged winter game range argument is doubtful.

LOLO AND LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL FOREST: Scapegoat Proposed Wilderness Additions; these areas have several low use trails which do not make up a complete riding area. We feel they will have to be sacrificed.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT

The areas depict as Special Management are acceptable to us as long as they remain in that or a non wilderness status so the trails and play areas can continue to be used. These will be even more important to each geographic area because of the loss with the closure of areas which are proposed to be under this bill. Jewel Basin would be the exception of use, since it is not currently used. The Porcupine-Buffalo Horn area has the Big Sky trail through it and is most important for its continued use. That and the other play areas are very heavily used. The Hyalite Peaks area is also heavily ridden and several play areas are encompassed. The West Pioneer recreation area has many heavy and moderate use trails in the area. It is a economic outlet for both ends of the trail, Wise River, Jackson and Dillon. The Middle Fork Judith recreation area is heavily ridden and used from Great Falls and Lewistown. It is the only area available to Judith Gap and Stanford. The West Big Hole should be left open for riding also as we have many heavy use trails in the area.

CONCLUSION

We feel that the boundries established for the major portions of this bill are acceptable. Flint Creek, Electric Peak, and Ten Lakes should not be wilderness because it closes out three much used areas which, when combined with losses in other proposed wilderness, totally isolates us. Any other considerations for wilderness would have to be closely reviewed since most areas under the RARE II study have high usage. With these minor changes, we fully support the bill and encourage an early vote and passage. Any questions call Bob Bushnell, (406) 442-1849 or (406) 444-7941.

STATEMENT OF JOE S. DIXON, SENIOR GEOLOGIC ADVISER, CHAMPLIN PETROLEUM CO.'S DENVER REGION

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is Joe Dixon. I am a senior geologic adviser for Champlin Petroleum Co.'s Denver region. I thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Champlin is a wholly owned subsidary of the Union Pacific Corp. It is a medium-sized oil and gas company heavily committed to the exploration of oil and gas. We have invested significant resources, both financial and human, in a continuing commitment to the discovery and production of new oil and gas reserves in the United States.

Much of our efforts are devoted to areas upon the public lands in the Western States. It is for this reason that we appear before you today.

Generally, Champlin is in support of the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984. We cannot support the concept of special management areas. They are defacto wilderness in our exploration efforts. We believe that certain provisions of the act should be addressed by our industry, and since others here have done so, we will direct our attention to a specific geographic area covered by the bill.

The area we wish to address is commonly referred to as the Montana Disturbed Belt. We along with other members of the oil and gas industry are of the opinion that this is one of the most promising exploration areas remaining in the Western United States. We are specifically concerned about an area within the Flathead National Forest, west of the common borders of the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness areas, along the Swan Front roadless area 485.

This area is on the extreme north end of the proposed Swan Front-Bob Marshall addition, as defined on the map dated June 1984, and attached. We request that certain lands, as denoted by cross hatching on the attached exhibit 1, be deleted from the lands being considered for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

Champlin has a tentative agreement which would lead to a substantial financial commitment and the acquisition of oil and gas leases covering significant acreage in this area. We are currently planning a costly seismic exploration program, the majority of which will be conducted with portable equipment. This program will further define the oil and gas potential more fully discussed below.

The potential of this area for the occurrence of oil or natural gas in commercial quantities is very high. Of all areas remaining in the Overthrust province currently open to industry activity, Champlin considers this area to have the best potential for discovery of major hydrocarbon pools.

The geological conditions which have created the giant oil and gas fields of Alberta in the Canadian Overthrust, as displayed on exhibit 2, project into this part of Montana. The necessary hydrocarbon source and reservoir rocks are present and are interpreted to have a favorable structural configuration similar to that found in the Canadian portion of the Disturbed Belt, see exhibit 3.

In addition, there are numerous oil seeps in the area which indicate that there are pools of hydrocarbons in the subsurface. Considering the giant Canadian fields as examples, each productive section of land within a potential field could have several million barrels of recoverable oil or billions of cubic feet of natural gas.

Evaluation of this region by the USGS, as expressed in circular 902-G, 1983, by Perry, Rice & Maughan, was based on very limited data. Their report states that these areas are considered to have significant hydrocarbon potential. But the map accompanying circular 902-G suggests uncertain or low oil and gas potential for the area.

However, recent seismic data and current regional studies clearly support a very optimistic assessment of the hydrocarbon potential of this portion of the Montana Disturbed Belt. The USGS personnel at Reston have recently been shown significant data by us indicating higher potential for the northern Swan Front that they have previously reported to the public.

Thank you for having me in.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Dixon follows:]

Testimony of

CHAMPLIN PETROLEUM COMPANY

"The Montana Wilderness Act of 1984"
S.2850

Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water

August 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman, members of the Subcommittee, my name is Joe S. Dixon. I am a Senior Geologic Advisor for Champlin Petroleum Company's Denver Region. I thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Champlin is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Union Pacific Corporation. Champlin is a medium sized oil and gas company heavily committed to the exploration and production of oil and gas. We have invested significant resources, both financial and human, in a continuing commitment to tHe discovery and production of new oil and gas reserves in the United States. Much of our efforts are devoted to areas upon the public lands in the Western States, and it is for this reason that we appear before you today.

Generally, Champlin is in support of the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984. We believe that certain general provisions of the Act should be addressed by our industry and, since others here will do so, we will direct our attention to a specific geographic area covered by the Bill.

The area we wish to address is commonly referred to as the Montana Disturbed Belt. We, along with other members of the oil and gas industry, are of the opinion that this is one of the most promising exploration areas remaining in the Western U.S. We are specifically concerned about an area within the Flathead National Forest west of the common borders of the Great Bear and Bob Marshall Wilderness Areas, along the Swan Front Roadless Area 485. This area is on the extreme north end of the proposed Swan Front-Bob Marshall Addition, as defined on the map dated June 1984. We request that certain lands, as denoted by cross hatching on the attached Exhibit 1, be deleted from the lands being considered for inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

Champlin has a tentative agreement which will lead to a substantial financial commitment, and the acquisition of oil and gas leases covering significant acreage in this area. We are currently planning a costly seismic exploration program, the majority of which will be conducted with portable equipment. This program will further define the oil and gas potential more fully discussed below.

The potential of this area for the occurrence of oil or natural gas in commercial quantities is very high. Of all areas remaining in the Overthrust province currently open to industry activity, Champlin considers this area to have the best potential for the discovery of major hydrocarbon pools. The geological conditions which have created the giant oil and gas fields of Alberta in the Canadian Overthrust (as displayed on Exhibit 2) project into this part of Montana. The necessary hydrocarbon source and reservoir rocks are present and are interpreted to have a favorable structural configuration similar to that found in the Canadian portion of the Disturbed Belt; see Exhibit 3. In addition, there

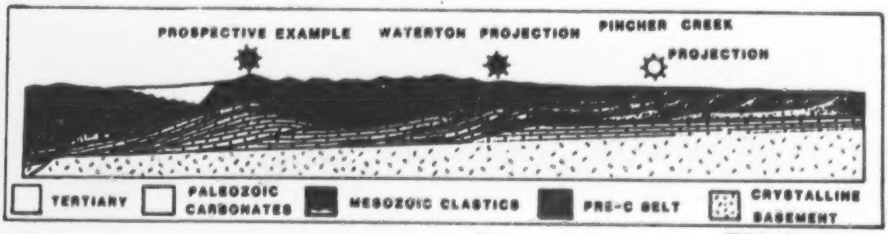
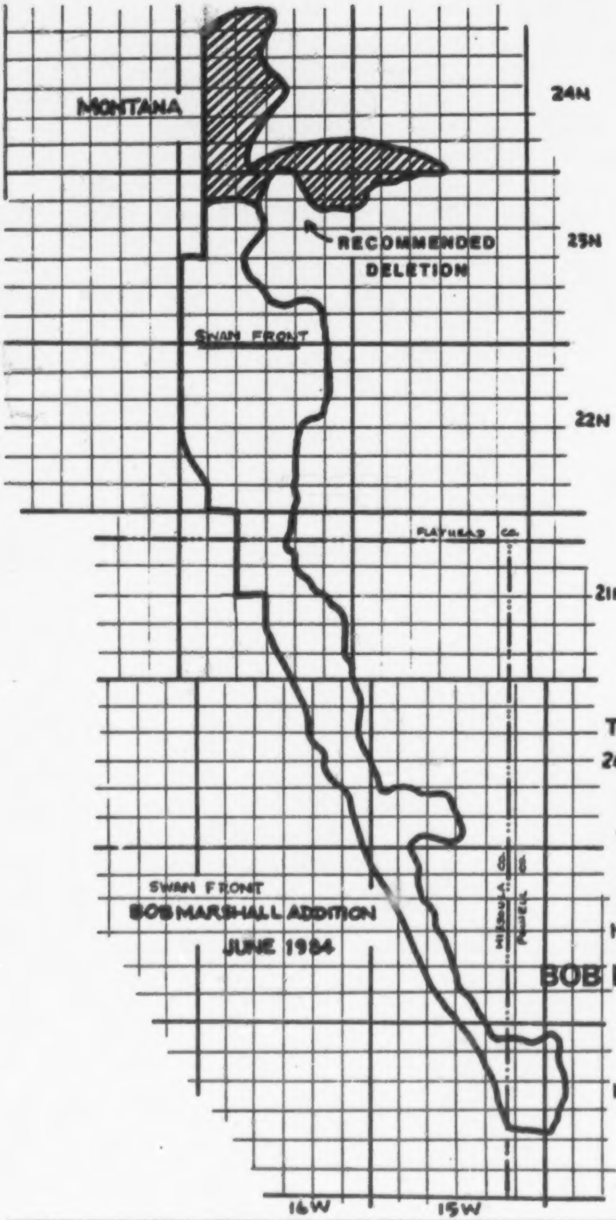

PROSPECTIVE EXAMPLE
WATERTON PROJECTION
PINCHER CREEK PROJECTION
TERTIARY
PALEOZOIC CARBONATES
MESOZOIC CLASTICS
PRE-C BELT
CRYSTALLINE BASEMENT

EXHIBIT 3

Modeled after Bally, A.W., Gordy, P.L. and Stewart, G.A.: "Structure, Seismic Data, and Orogenic Evolution of Southern Canadian Rocky Mountains"; Bulletin of Canadian Petroleum Geology, Vol. 14, No. 3, 1966, pps. 337-381.

are numerous oil seeps in the area which indicate that there are pools of hydrocarbons in the subsurface. Considering the giant Canadian fields as examples, each productive section of land within a potential field could have several million barrels of recoverable oil or billions of cubic feet of natural gas.

Evaluation of this region by the U.S.G.S., as expressed in Circular 902-G (1983, by Perry, Rice and Maughan) was based on very limited data. Their report states that: "these areas are considered to have significant hydrocarbon potential." But the map accompanying Circ. 902-G, suggests uncertain or low oil and gas potential for the area. However, recent seismic data and current regional studies clearly support a very optimistic assessment of the hydrocarbon potential of this portion of the Montana Disturbed Belt.


MONTANA
24N
RECOMMENDED DELETION
23N
SWAN FRONT
22N
FLATHEAD CO.
21N
20N
SWAN FRONT
BOB MARSHALL ADDITION
JUNE 1984
MISSOULA CO.
POWELL CO.
19N
18N
16W
15W

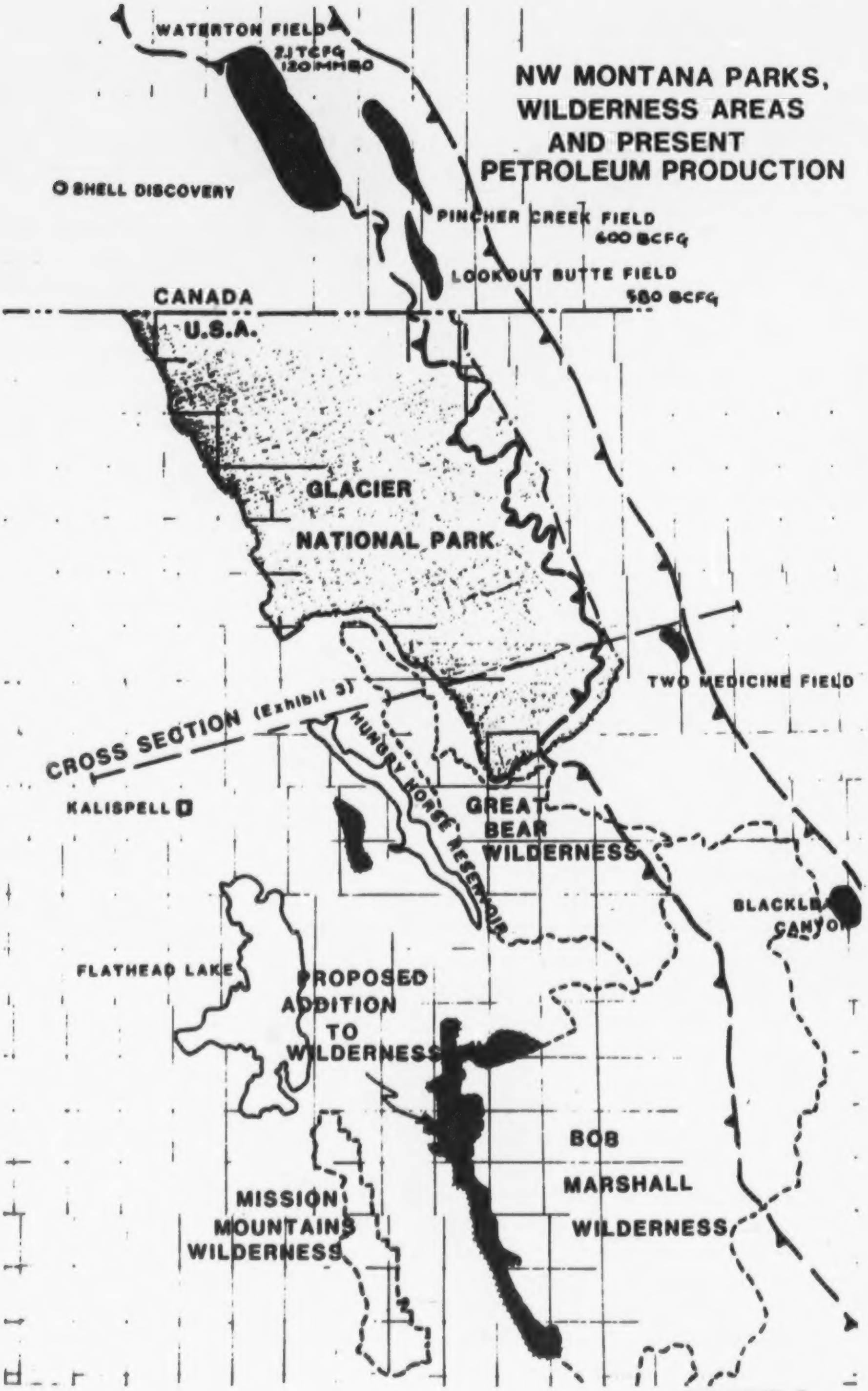
TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM

MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

SWAN FRONT - BOB MARSHALL ADDITION

JUNE 1984

EXHIBIT 1



NW MONTANA PARKS, WILDERNESS AREAS AND PRESENT PETROLEUM PRODUCTION

WATERTON FIELD
2.1 TCFG
120 MMBO
SHELL DISCOVERY
PINCHER CREEK FIELD
600 BCFG
LOOKOUT BUTTE FIELD
580 BCFG
CANADA
U.S.A.
GLACIER
NATIONAL PARK
TWO MEDICINE FIELD
CROSS SECTION (Exhibit 3)
HUNGRY HORSE RESERVOIR
KALISPELL
GREAT
BEAR
WILDERNESS
BLACKLEAF CANYON
FLATHEAD LAKE
PROPOSED
ADDITION
TO
WILDERNESS
BOB
MARSHALL
WILDERNESS
MISSION
MOUNTAINS
WILDERNESS

EXHIBIT 2

Senator MELCHER. Thank you.

Our next scheduled witness is Max Pitcher.

STATEMENT OF MAX G. PITCHER, VICE PRESIDENT, NORTH AMERICAN EXPLORATION, CONOCO, INC., HOUSTON, TX

Mr. PITCHER. My name is Max Pitcher and I am vice president for Conoco, a geologist by training and in charge of oil and gas exploration in North America.

I have provided a written statement expanding upon the points I am about to make. Conoco cannot support S. 2850 in its present form. In evaluating wilderness proposals, we apply two basic criteria, both of which are seriously compromised by this legislation. The first is that the areas designated as wilderness should have minimal encroachment into lands having petroleum potential.

The second is that the legislation should provide clear authorization for multiple use of lands not designated as wilderness. This bill proposes the withdrawal of 1.25 million acres of land from petroleum exploration. There are six areas proposed for withdrawal, which have very significant petroleum potential. These total less than 8 percent of the acreage included in the bill, and Conoco strongly recommends that they be deleted from S. 2850.

The specific areas include Deep Creek and the Silver King-Falls Creek Wilderness addition and the Silver King and Renshaw special management areas. The USGS has given these areas their highest rating for oil and gas potential. That is orange on the map that Fred is pointing to.

Our work in the field confirms that. The other areas of concern are the new Mount Hefty and the Tuchuck wilderness designation. We concur with the Forest Service, with Max Peterson who objected today to their inclusion.

We are pursuing an active play in this region and these areas lie precisely on trend. To proceed with withdrawal of such areas in spite of strong evidence of petroleum resources is a disservice to this nation. Included in the acreage withdrawn from exploration by this bill are 537,000 nondesignated acres for which restrictive special management is prescribed.

To summarize, Conoco urges that you eliminate the Deep Creek, Silver King-Falls Creek, Mount Hefty, and Tuchuck areas from wilderness designations and that you eliminate from the bill the special management areas, particularly the Silver King and Renshaw Areas.

Senator Baucus has asked the question earlier on how long should we wait for oil and gas potential to be described in the Montana Overthrust Belt. I would remind everyone that 60 dry holes were drilled in Wyoming over several years before significant oil and gas was found. Frankly, we are not very good at finding oil and gas. One in ten find significant hydrocarbons.

As long as the specialists are willing to spend millions of dollars on leasing sites and drilling, I think that we should wait on them and let them have that strength. I will say that we have already foreclosed the majority of the most promising lands in Montana through Glacier Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Areas. If we continue to set aside more prime land, we foreclose much of the future of this significant segment of the Montana economy.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Pitcher follows:]

STATEMENT OF

Max G. Pitcher
Vice President, North American Exploration
Conoco, Inc.

Before The
Subcommittee On Public Lands And Reserved Waters
Committee On Energy And Natural Resources
United States Senate
Concerning S. 2850
The Montana Wilderness Act Of 1984

August 9, 1984
Washington, D. C.

MONTANA WILDERNESS

My name is Max Pitcher. I am Vice President - Conoco, a geologist by training, and in charge of Conoco's North American Exploration Department.

Conoco cannot support S. 2850, the Montana Wilderness Bill, in its present form. Our concern is oil and gas. In evaluating wilderness proposals, we apply two basic criteria, both of which are seriously compromised by this legislation:

The first is simply that areas designated as wilderness should have minimal encroachment into lands having petroleum potential.

The second criteria is that the legislation should provide clear authorization for multiple use of lands not designated as wilderness.

Petroleum Potential

With respect to encroachment on potential petroleum resources, this bill proposes withdrawal of 1.25 million acres of land from petroleum exploration. The petroleum potential of much of this land is uncertain. The Rocky Mountains present some of the most complex geology confronting the petroleum industry. Our understanding of that geology is relatively recent, and our exploration in this region is still in its infancy. For much of the existing wilderness in Montana and the land proposed for withdrawal by this bill, we will never be able to offer you an informed judgement as to the extent of petroleum resource the United State and the Western World is forgoing.

There are, however, six areas proposed for withdrawal by this bill for which we have evidence of very significant petroleum potential. The areas total only approximately 6% of the acreage included in the bill, and Conoco strongly recommends that they be deleted from S.2850.

The specific areas that concern us are on the Rocky Mountain Front and in the Upper Whitefish Range. The front areas include the Deep Creek addition to the Bob Marshall Wilderness, the Silver King-Falls Creek addition to the Scapegoat Wilderness, and the Silver King and Renshaw Special Management Areas. We have had seismic crews active around these areas and have substantiated the high geologic promise suspected by the USGS, which has given these areas their highest rating for oil and gas potential.

The other areas of concern are the new wilderness designations proposed for the Mt. Hefty and Tuchuck areas. We are pursuing an active play in this region and these areas lie precisely on trend.

The Importance of These Areas

To proceed with withdrawal these such areas in spite of strong evidence of petroleum resources threatens a serious disservice to this nation. Though some will surely argue that our concerns are merely self serving, I would like to call your attention to several facts which show this is clearly not the case.

First, the United States is importing over 30% of its crude oil today, and our demand is increasing. Second, our reserves have declined by 30% since the pre-embargo years, and critical, politically stable production areas at Prudhoe Bay and in the North Sea are entering phases of irreversible decline.

In spite of this threat to our future security, we continue to pose legislation which reduces opportunities to replace those lost reserves and sustain our current oil price stability. In Montana alone, wildlife refuges and BLM study areas have potential for another half million acres of withdrawal, much of it highly regarded by both USGS and industry geologists. Moreover, we face proposals for wilderness restrictions in other states and moratoria on exploration in promising OCS areas.

Non-Designated Lands

With respect to multiple use of lands not designated as wilderness, S.2850 poses an obvious conflict in its express prohibition of multiple use on over 437,000 acres for which special management is prescribed. The premise underlying this restriction seems to be that lands not designated as wilderness will inevitably be sacrificed to development unless the hands of federal resource managers are tied. I simply cannot accept that notion.

These lands are protected by a wide array of laws, including the Forest Management Act and numerous environmental statutes that have been crafted by Congress within the past decade. To assume that these mandates would suddenly be abandoned and such lands laid waste to development is ridiculous.

We believe the prohibition of oil and gas activities on these lands is particularly unjustified. We have demonstrated the environmental compatibility of petroleum exploration in fragile environments from Arctic Tundra to fragile undersea ecosystems in the Gulf of Mexico. Documentation of this exists and we would welcome an opportunity to demonstrate our accomplishments. Furthermore, the Forest Service has comprehensive regulations aimed at ensuring that oil and gas operations are conducted without permanent impacts. Industry has the technology and field experience to meet those demands, even in the back country of Montana.

On this subject of non-designated lands, I would also like to note that the compromise release language (Sec. 6) provides a basis on which to make future wilderness withdrawals from non-designated lands. This is disruptive of our planning and budgeting, since our projects typically span decades. I therefore have serious objection to this language. However, those advocating expansion of Montana's wilderness inventory should be reassured by the fact that the bill does not foreclose future wilderness selections, and provides for protective management for legitimate future candidates. If our fears of increased oil price instability prove unfounded, then the resource value of these lands will be greatly diminished, and there will be less opposition to wilderness designation. If, on the other hand, our forecasts are correct, the nation will have preserved the access to the only thing that can hold down price: increased supply.

Conclusion

There are several provisions of S.2850 which we endorse. These include the legal and factual sufficiency language, the prohibition on additional statewide roadless reviews, and the prohibition on buffer zones.

Despite those positive attributes, however, this bill remains unacceptable. Conoco urges that you remedy this by eliminating the Deep Creek, Silver King-Falls Creek, Mt. Hefty and Tuchuck areas from wilderness designation; and that you eliminate from the bill the special management areas, particularly the Silver Creek and Renshaw areas. Creating yet another category of withdrawal is not the proper treatment. Rather, this land should be entrusted to the forest management practices that you have so carefully crafted to handle environmentally sensitive areas for which multiple uses may be appropriate.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you very much.

Before I call the next witness, I want to recognize our colleague from the House, Pat Williams, who has been a strong advocate of developing a bill and who is one of the most diligent of the four of us in working to ascertain what should be in the bill and where the boundaries should be.

Pat, would you care to comment?

STATEMENT OF HON. PAT WILLIAMS, A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE STATE OF MONTANA

Mr. WILLIAMS. Thank you, Senator, and my colleague Senator Baucus as well. When we introduced this bill, we thought we had a vehicle about which Montanans would be able to find consensus. While that has been true with some Montanans or representatives of Montana concerns or interests, it has not been true of the number of Montanans that I thought it would.

Contention seems to have replaced consensus and if that happens and this bill dies, I fear that litigation will replace legislation and that is not good for the groups that bring the legislation, nor is it good for Montana. So I must say frankly to you Senators and the people here at this committee that I think we ought to look very closely at any ways we can to pass this bill by the end of this session.

However, after reading some of the testimony here today and talking to Montanans these last 6 weeks, I am beginning to believe that the passage of this particular legislation is doubtful, and I must also say frankly I believe that most of the groups or individuals who have expressed concern in this legislation lose, not gain, by the defeat of this bill and the bringing up of another one or other ones next year. There will be very few winners in this process if this bill dies. Thank you very much, Senator.

Senator MELCHER. Thank you, Pat. Our next witness is George Berg.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE BERG, BERG LUMBER CO., LEWISTOWN, MT

Mr. BERG. Congressman and Senators, I would like to thank you for allowing me to talk here. I am talking about the Lewistown area where I live. We have been sawing lumber in the Lewistown area now for well over a 100 years, my family has—I have not, my family has. We are now faced with a critical shortage of timber in the area.

What happened to our timber was a few years ago when the Forest Service started cutting down on the timber supplies to the other places, other mills moved in. For example, the first mill that was cut off of timber was Coty Timber in Coty, WY. They were forced to come to our central Montana, which is about 300 miles and cut timber there. They shipped it out by rail.

The next sawmill that was cut off of timber was Wyoming Saws in Sheridan, WY. They were forced to come to our area and cut timber out. The next thing that happened is that everybody got to talking and they said, boy, there is a lot of nice private timber down there. So we got a lot of mills come in. For instance, we had

Louisiana Pacific, we had Montana Pacific International, we had Georgia Pacific come in.

They spent, I think, $27 million at Roundup and I think they finally sold it and I don't think they got a half-million out of it at the auction sale when they left. In so doing, we lost a lot of our timber base.

Then we had Wheatland County, they got into the act and they put up revenue sharing bonds with a man who had businesses in Missoula and Kalispell, and they come down and built a new mill in Wheatland County. Of course, he has to come over to Fergus County to get most of his timber, so that puts very much pressure on the base.

And we do have quite a bit of pine in our area, but these ranchers would like to have fir. Most of the ranchers in the area want fir lumber for their corrals. They want 2-inch thick lumber and they come from all over. They come from Miles City, from Jordan and just about everywhere in the State to pick up this heavy fir lumber, because they cannot buy it anyplace else.

When you run a sawmill, usually your full lumber you cut at 1⅝ inches and you plane it at 1½ inches. But the farmers and the ranchers do not want that. They want the full 2-inch. So we specialize in cutting 2-inch lumber for them.

I have got some timber I can get up out of the belts, south of Great Falls, but that is a 15-mile haul and that makes it almost prohibitive. You get too much money into it before you get it done.

Now, we employ in Lewistown, we employ about 95 people. We have about $2 million we put in the economy every year. Now a lot of these other people in the Lewistown area have asked me to talk for them. I know the area pretty well, because I was raised up there. They favor a multiple use plan because they figure they can have more wildlife in areas where the trees have been removed than they can on heavy forest.

There has been quite a bit of roading on the north side of the Big Snowies. I cut timber in that area in 1953 and during the fire that we had on what we call Jump Off Cliff up near the Lime Caves, we even had a Greyhound bus come up that far. At the present time, there is only, as far as recreation, there is only one road that you can get into the mountains on or into the forest on. The rest of them were all closed off. The ranchers kind of keep you out. They do not want you in there. So it would not be too good as it is right now for recreation, because nobody can get to it.

The geography is such that you cannot get over from the Crystal Lake Road, you cannot get over to the rest of the place. Also, the county road going up to Rodgers Ranger Station is now closed off, so you cannot go up to Rodgers Ranger Station anymore.

What I am suggesting and what a lot of the people want is they would like to have multiple use of the Big Snowy Mountains. I have got a few letters here that I would like to submit. I did not get very many. I could have got a lot more, but it takes a long time to read them.

Senator **Melcher**. They will be made part of the record too.

Mr. **Berg**. I want to thank you for hearing me today.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Berg follows:]

STATEMENT
ON THE
MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984
(S. 2850)

BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVE WATER
UNITED STATES SENATE

George Berg
Berg Lumber Company
Lewistown, Montana

August 9, 1984

August 9, 1984

My name is George Berg and I represent Berg Lumber Company and many other people in the Lewistown area that have asked me to speak for them.

We have been sawing lumber in Central Montana for over 100 years and if the timber base is taken from the Forest Service it puts too much pressure on private, State and BLM lands.

For example: the US Forest Service stopped timber sales to Cody Timber, Cody, Wyoming, in the late 60's and early 70's and as a result they were forced to come to central Montana for timber. The US Forest Service then stopped sales to Wyoming Saws at Sheridan, Wyoming, with the same results: they came to Central Montana for timber.

The Wyoming loggers started talking about all the good private timber in Central Montana and we had a stampede like a gold rush. In came Louisiana Pacific, Montana Pacific International, Georgia Pacific, Brand S and many other big corporate companies.

Even Wheatland County got into the act by giving revenue sharing bonds to a man with businesses both in Missoula and Kalispell, Montana. With these funds, he built a stud mill in Wheatland County and comes to Fergus County, just 10 miles from Berg Lumbr Company, for timber.

These big companies soon creamed and depleted the timber base then ceased operations, leaving the area, except for the Wheatland County Mill.

The area ranchers prefer fir lumber for their building materials rather than pine, as fir is so much stronger and has a longer life. I now have to travel 150 miles to log fir (40 miles south of Great Falls) which results in expensive hauling costs and competitive buying.

The Belt Mountain Forest Service timber has approximately one sale per year and is also a long expensive haul. There is no fir in the Little Snowy Mountains and the roads going into the area are better suited for service to the Roundup, MT., area. The bidding is very competitive at the Forest Service Timber sales as there are one or two sales with six mills vying for the timber. The Big Snowy's have large stands of fir timber and are ideally geographically located from my mill.

Berg Lumber is the largest private employer in Lewistown and Fergus County and without this timber may have to close its doors after 100 years of sawing lumber. BERG LUMBER SUPPLYS DIRECT EMPLOYMENT FOR 95 PEOPLE.

Many lewistown residents asked me to represent them as I was raised one mile from the forest service boundary in the Big Snowy Mountains and have spent over 50 years in the woods and know them as well as anyone.

The Big Snowy's are being proposed for a wildlife, primitive, roadless, recreational area. As for wildlife, there is more game on my lower ranch at Bearer Creek than in this proposed area and more bear an my upper place than on these Forest Service lands.

What a lot of people are in favor of is the plan put forward by US Forest Ranger Vogel, before his transfer, to have a 5MM timber sale to raise funds for the contruction of a road through BLM to the forest service road in Green Pole Canyon, then to Jump Off Cliff Road and then the Lime Cave Road. During the forest fire of 1953 a Greyhound bus ran from Great Falls to the bottom of Lime Cave road. Therefore, this area has not always been roadless.

At present, there is only one access road that can be used by the public and that is the Crystal Lake Road. The geography of the area makes it impossible to get to the rest of the 98,000 acres in the Big Snowy Mountains and the Crystal Lake Campground is too crowded. We used to have picnics and camping in Green Pole Canyon when I was a kid, but private landowners have closed the roads off. You can't even go to Rogers Ranger Station anymore as all county roads are now closed and the owners of the private roads will not let the general public through. The roads to the Lime Caves are now fenced with the gates locked.

Most everyone that I have talked to favors multiple use for the area with a number of different access routes to be built. The north side of the Big Snowy's was logged from the 1870's to 1953 and the south side was logged up to the time of this special study.

The Big Snowy Mountains can be used for recreation, multiple use and the good of all rather than a private, fenced, grazing area for a few ranchers.

STATEMENT OF PAUL JOHNSON, ON BEHALF OF MONTANANS FOR PROTECTION OF THE BIG HOLE, JACKSON, MT

Mr. JOHNSON. Senator Melcher, Senator Baucus, Congressman Williams, staff, my name is Paul Johnson and I represent a group of local people, Montanans for the Protection of the Big Hole, of which I am president. I have lived in the valley all of my life and I operate a working ranch in the West Big Hole.

I believe that I am qualified to speak as to what would be of benefit to the Big Hole. Wilderness designation for the West Big Hole is not in its best interest.

I wish to thank the Montana delegation for working so diligently on a bill which with some modification will allow Montanans to continue with the business of earning a living as well as enjoying recreation on our public lands by everyone in the country.

Our area in the Big Hole Valley includes the West and North Big Hole. Our group was formed for the protection and welfare of the area and its people in order to insure that the ranchers, recreationists, miners and loggers can continue to enjoy and reap the benefits of the area. We suggest approximately 40,000 acres be designated wilderness which includes about 17,000 acres in the West Big Hole and 22,000 acres in the North Big Hole.

The remaining acreage in that area should be released to multiple use. Based on Forest Service studies and the knowledge and experience of the area ranchers, the West Big Hole should not be considered for wilderness at all. However, we are willing to compromise and suggest that 17,000 acres in the West Big Hole be designated wilderness.

The facts with regard to the Big Hole Valley have all been presented over and over again. You have records of roads, trails, grazing, logging, mining and snowmobiling in the area. With these facts in mind, we hope that you will adjust the Montana Wilderness bill keeping the needs of the local people in mind, people who live, work and play in the valley on a year-round basis.

There is concern by the permittees that the bill will contain strong grazing language. A document with reference to grazing in a wilderness is attached. And, very importantly, for everyone on a State-wide basis, we want water rights guaranteed to the States and to the individuals through existing State water rights. This we want to see in all the wilderness areas.

Last, but not least, I would hope that we could work together and get this bill through Congress as soon as possible so that all the people who rely on public lands can get on with a plan and continue working to keep a great America.

Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Johnson follows:]

Box #837
Jackson, Montana 59736
August 9, 1984

ATT: Subcommittee Members on Public Lands and Reserved Water

Gentlemen:

My name is Paul Johnson and I represent a group of local people called, Montanans for the Protection of the Big Hole, of which I am President. I have lived in the Valley all my life and operate a working ranch in the West Big Hole. I am a member of the National Public Lands Council, I am the local fire chief, and also coach Little Guy Wrestling in Jackson and Wisdom. I believe that I am qualified to speak as to what will be of benefit to the Big Hole. Wilderness designation for the West Big Hole is not in its best interest; on the other hand, I realize the situation for the North Big Hole is not the same.

I wish to thank the Montana delegation for working so diligently on a bill, which, with some modification, will allow Montanans to continue with the business of earning a living as well as enjoying recreation on our public lands by everyone in the country.

Our area in the Big Hole Valley includes the West and North Big Hole. Our group was formed for the protection and welfare of the area and its people in order to insure that the ranchers, recreationists, miners, and loggers can continue to enjoy and reap the benefits of this area. We suggest approximately 40,000 acres be designated Wilderness which includes about 17,000 acres in the West Big Hole, and 22,000 acres in the North Big Hole. The remaining acreage in the area should be released to multiple use. Based on Forest Service Studies and the knowledge and experience of the area ranchers, the West Big Hole should not be considered for Wilderness at all.

However, we are willing to compromise and suggest that 17,000 acres in the West Big Hole be designated Wilderness. In the North Big Hole 22,000 acres is recommended for Wilderness because the Forest Service has not been receptive to local concerns.

The facts with regard to the Big Hole Valley have all been presented over and over again. You have records of roads, trails, grazing, logging, mining, and snowmobiling in the area. With these facts in mind, we hope that you will adjust the Montana Wilderness Bill keeping the needs of the local people in mind----people who live, work, and play in the Valley on a year-round basis.

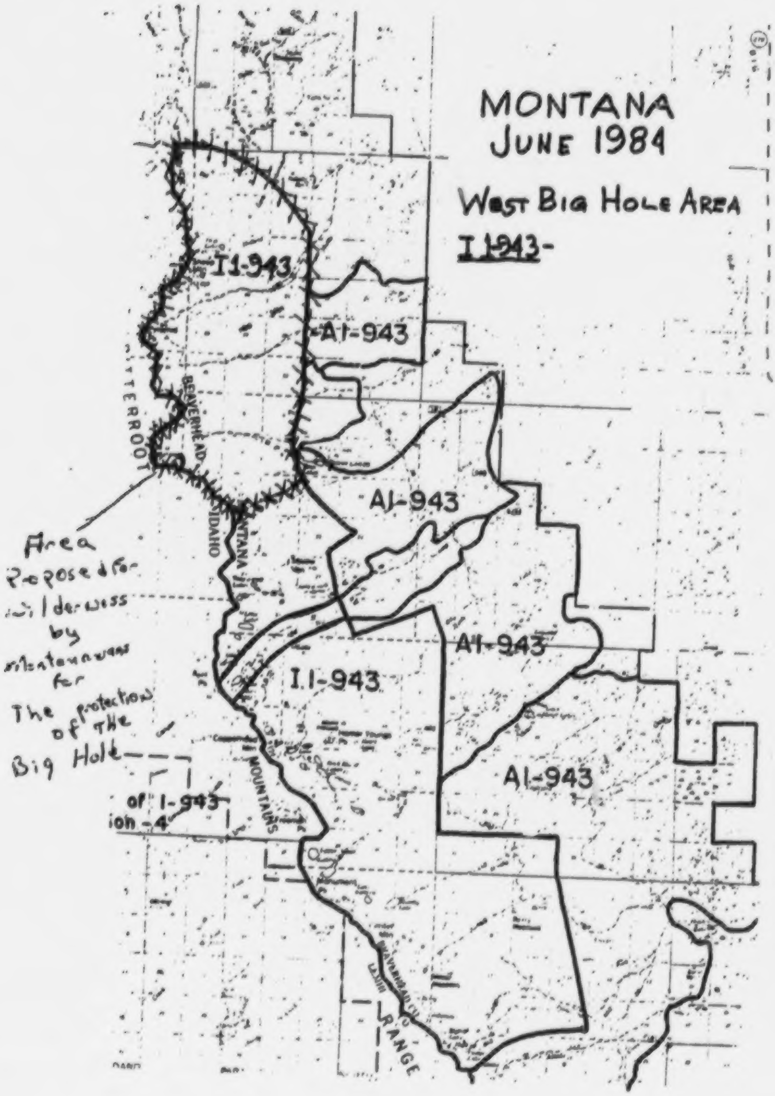
There is a concern by the permittees that the Bill will contain strong grazing language. A document with reference to grazing in a Wilderness is attached. And, very importantly for everyone on a State-wide basis, we want water rights guaranteed to the states and to the individuals through existing state water rights. This we want to see in all the Wilderness areas.

Last, but not least, I would hope that we could work together and get this bill through Congress as soon as possible, so that all the people who rely on public lands can get on with a plan and continue working to keep America great.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Johnson
President,
Montanans for the Protection of
the Big Hole

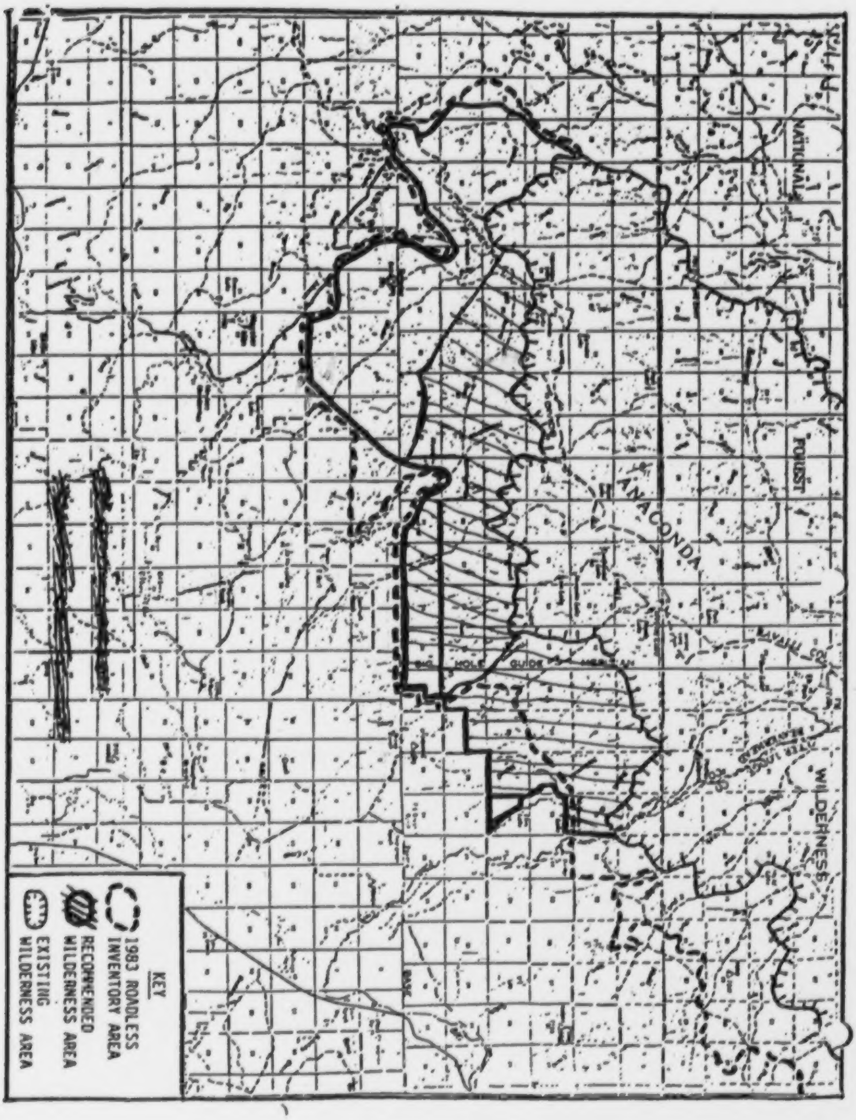
PJ/cj
Enclosures: three



MONTANA
JUNE 1984
West Big Hole Area
I 1-943-

Area Proposed for wilderness by Montanans for The protection of The Big Hole

I1-943
AI-943
AI-943
AI-943
I.1-943
AI-943
ITTERROOT
BEAVERHEAD
IDAHO
MONTANA
MOUNTAINS
RANGE
of I-943
ion -4


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
ANACONDA
NATIONAL
FOREST
WILDERNESS
BIG HOLE GUIDE MERIDIAN

Livestock grazing, where established prior to an area's being designated as wilderness, is clearly permitted to continue in Section 4(d)(4)(2) of the Wilderness Act, stating that grazing activity should not be curtailed or eliminated simply due to the area's wilderness designation. However, the grazing guidelines also stress that all reasonable measures be taken to minimize the impact of grazing activities on wilderness character and to protect other resource values.

> Wilderness Act Section 4(d)(4)(2):
>
> "the grazing of livestock, where established prior to the effective date of this Act, shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations as are deemed necessary by the Secretary of Agriculture."
>
> The Congress hereby declares that, without amending the Wilderness Act of 1964, with respect to livestock grazing in National Forest wilderness areas, the provisions of the Wilderness Act relating to grazing shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the guidelines contained under the heading "Grazing in National Forest Wilderness" in the House Committee Report accompanying this Act." (House Report 96-17)
>
> "Grazing in National Forest Wilderness Areas
>
> The legislative history of this language is very clear in its intent that livestock grazing, and activities and the necessary facilities to support a livestock grazing program will be permitted to continue in National Forest wilderness areas, when such grazing was established prior to classification of an area as wilderness.
>
> . . . . It is the intention of the Committee that (the following) guidelines and policies be considered in the overall context of the purposes and direction of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and this Act, and that they be promptly, fully, and diligently implemented and made available to Forest Service personnel at all levels and to all holders of permits for grazing in national Forest Wilderness areas:
>
> 1. There shall be no curtailments of grazing in wilderness areas simply because an area is, or has been designated as wilderness, nor should wilderness designations be used as an excuse by administrators to slowly "phase out" grazing. Any adjustments in the numbers of livestock permitted to graze in the wilderness areas should be made as a result of revisions in the normal grazing and land management planning and policy setting process, giving consideration to legal mandates, range condition, and the protection of the range resource from deterioration.

Wilderness Act Section 4(d)(4)(2) Cont'd:

It is anticipated that the numbers of livestock permitted to graze in wilderness would remain at the approximate levels existing at the time an area enters the wilderness system. If land management plans reveal conclusively that increased livestock numbers or animal unit months (AUMS) could be made available with no adverse impact on wilderness values such as plant communities, primitive recreation, and wildlife populations or habitat, some increases in AUMS may be permissible. This is not to imply, however, that wilderness lends itself to AUM or livestock increases and construction of substantial new facilities that might be appropriate for intensive grazing management in non-wilderness areas.

2, The maintenance of supporting facilities, existing in an area prior to its classification as wilderness (including fences, line cabins, water wells and lines, stock tanks, etc.), is permissible in wilderness. Where practical alternatives do not exist, maintenance or other activities shall, when necessary, be accomplished through the occasional use of motorized equipment. This shall include, for example, the use of backhoes to maintain stock ponds, pickup trucks for major fence repairs, or specialized equipment to repair stock watering facilities. Such occasional use or motorized equipment should be expressly authorized in the grazing permits for the area involved. The use of motorized equipment should be based on rule of practical necessity and reasonableness. For example, motorized equipment need not be allowed for the placement of small quantities of salt or other activities where such activities can reasonably and practically be accomplished on horseback or foot. On the other hand, it may be appropriate to permit the occasional use of motorized equipment to haul large quantities of salt to distribution points. Moreover, under the rule of reasonableness, occasional use of motorized equipment should be permitted where practical alternatives are not available and such use would not have a significant adverse impact on the natural environment. Such motorized equipment uses will normally only be permitted in those portions of a wilderness area where they had occurred prior to the area's designation as wilderness or are established by prior agreement.

Wilderness Act Section 4(d)(4)(2) Cont'd.

3. The replacement or reconstruction of deteriorated facilities or improvements should not be required to be accomplshed using "natural materials", unless the material and labor costs of using natural materials are such that their use would not impose unreasonable additional costs on grazing permittees.

4. The construction of new improvements or replacement of deteriorated facilities in wilderness is permissible if in accordance with these guidelines and management plans governing the area involved. However, the construction of new improvements should be primarily for the purpose of resource protection and the more effective management of these resources rather than to accommodate increased numbers of livestock.

5. The use of motorized equipment for emergency purposes such as rescuing sick animals or the placement of feed in emergency situations is also permissible. This privilege is to be exercised only in true emergencies, and should not be abused by permittees.

In summary, subject to the conditions and policies outlined in this report, the general rule of thumb on grazing management in wilderness should be that activities or facilities established prior to the date of an area's designation as wilderness should be allowed to remain in place and may be replaced when necessary for the permittee to properly administer the grazing program. Thus, if livestock grazing activities and facilities were established in an area at the time Congress determined that the area was suitable for wilderness and placed the specific area in the wilderness system, they should be allowed to continue. With respect to areas designated as wilderness prior to the date of this Act, these guidelines shall not be considered as a direction to reestablish uses where such uses have been discontinued."

STATEMENT OF CHERILEE JOHNSON, JACKSON, MT

Ms. Johnson. Gentlemen, I do not support a wilderness in the West Big Hole for several reasons, and I also feel that I am capable of making this statement with regard to the area. The concept of a special management area will not remain as such and is only a prelude to a wilderness, in my opinion, once that line is drawn around an area. It is my environment, my home, my work and my life that is to be affected by your laws. It is also my children's heritage that we are talking about and that I must protect.

I have lived in the Big Hole Valley for 14 years. My reasons for favoring multiple use in the West Big Hole are as follows. It is not an area with wilderness characteristics. The evidence of man in this area is obvious.

Agriculture is the backbone of America. For agriculture to survive, it must have water. Our water rights are not guaranteed under wilderness and I would like to see the Montana wilderness bill address, most specifically, the water rights issue. It is a scary situation for those of us in the cattle business. In any business, for that matter.

I will be unable to use the public lands for recreation as my family enjoys camping, fishing and snowmobiling. I am not physically able to get to the forest unless I can use a motorized vehicle. Since it is no fun unless mom goes along, my children would suffer the consequences. I am also looking at the fact that I cannot take salt to the cattle, nor will I be able to check on them if there is no motorization allowed in the West Big Hole.

The wild game in the West Big Hole are not adversely affected here. I can look out and see deer, elk, and more often moose, all slicked off and running free, no worse off under multiple use.

Last, my reason for favoring the multiple use concept here in the West Big Hole is that the Johnson family goes back a long, hard way. They settled here in 1890 as homesteaders. I want my children to be a part of their heritage and of this great country, to have the chance to carry on successfully as good Americans, as did their great-grandfather, grandfather and father before them. This family helped to make the Big Hole Valley what it is today and I desperately want to know that our valley can and will continue on, left alone, as prosperously as ever.

In summation, I cannot help but feel that it is wrong for any one of us to allow Congress to lock up these United States. Children have nothing to cling to. Simply closing off a little bit here and a little bit there creates a real problem. People basically want to do what is right. More and more laws only reinforce the idea in a person that he cannot be educated to preservation and that he is destructive to the public lands.

All of us must be educated to the conservation of our resources and the vehicle to do this is already there, the USDA.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Johnson follows:]

Box #837
Jackson, Montana 59736
August 9, 1984

ATT: Subcommittee Members on Public Lands and Reserved Water

Gentlemen:

I will get right to the point and make my testimony short. I do not support a Wilderness in the west Big Hole for several reasons; and I also feel that I am capable to make this statement with regards to the area. The concept of a "special management area" will not remain as such and is only a prelude to a Wilderness. Once that line is drawn around an area......
It is my environment, my home, my work, and my life that is to be affected by your laws. It is also my children's heritage that we are talking about, and that I must protect.

I have lived in the Big Hole Valley for fourteen years and know it well. My reasons for favoring multiple use in the west Big Hole are as follows:

1. It is not an area with Wilderness characteristics. The evidence of man in this area is obvious. (Please see your maps).
2. Cattle in the area would be greatly affected by the big "W", and this would be very detrimental to our little town, our county, and our state. I definitely support strong grazing language in the Bill and would hope that the Montana delegation would include it in their bill.
3. Agriculture is the backbone of America. For agriculture to survive, it must have water. Our water rights are not guaranteed under Wilderness designation and I would like to see the Montana Wilderness Bill address, most specifically, the water rights issue. It is a scary situation for those of us in the cattle business. In any business, for that matter.

4. I will be unable to use the public lands for recreation as my family enjoys camping, fishing, and snowmobiling. I am not physically able to get to the forest unless I can use a motorized vehicle. Since it is, "no fun unless Mom goes along," my children would suffer the consequences.

. I am also looking at the fact that I cannot take salt to the cattle nor will I be able to check on them if there is no motorization allowed in the West Big Hole.

5. The wild game in the west Big Hole are not adversely affected here, as they would be in the North Big Hole due to multiple use. I realize the ranchers in the North have a "pocket" that promotes the reproduction of deer, and elk, whereas our area does not provide them this advantage. I can, however, look out my back door and see deer, elk, and more often, moose, all slicked off, running free, and bright-eyed. No worse off----under multiple use.

6. Lastly, my reason for favoring the multiple use concept here in the west Big Hole is that the Johnson family goes back a long, hard way. They settled here in 1890 as homesteaders. I want my children to be a part of their heritage and of this great country; to have the chance to carry on successfully, as good Americans, as did their great-grandfather, grandfather, and father before them. This family helped to make the Big Hole Valley what it is today, and I desperately want to know that our Valley can, and will continue on, left alone, as prosperously as ever.

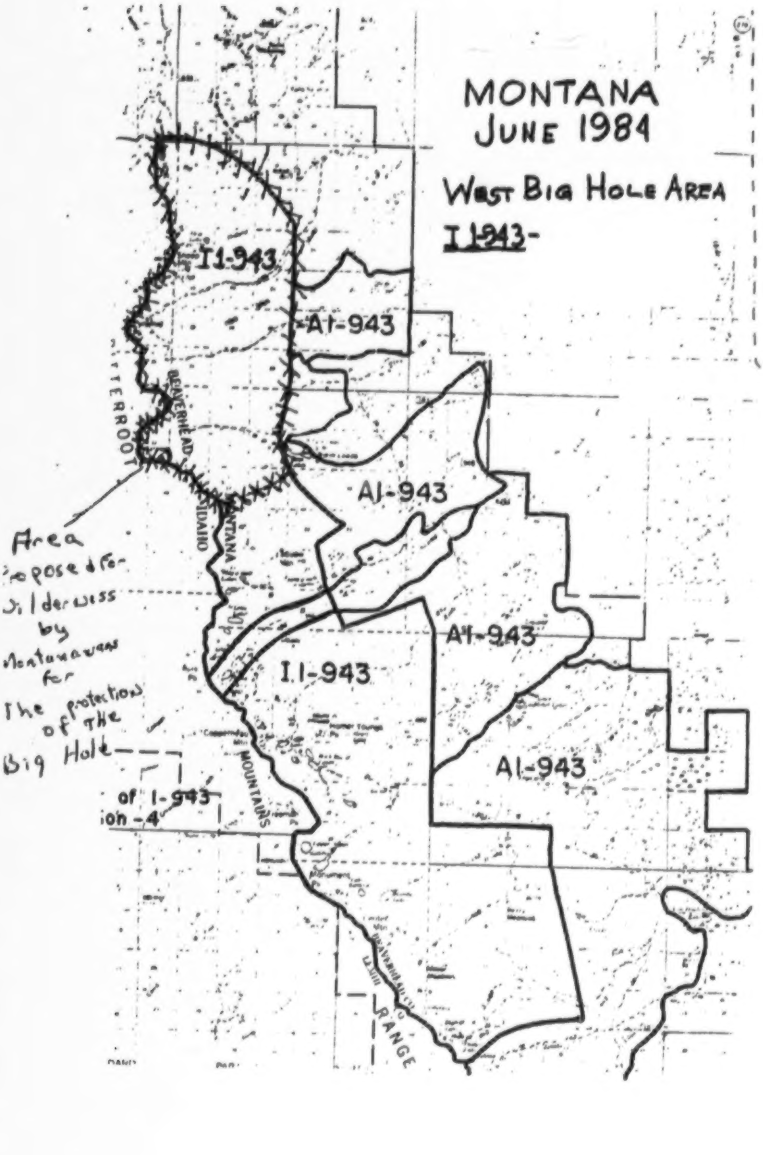
In summation, I cannot help but feel that it is wrong for any one of us to allow Congress to "lock up" these United States. The children, my generation, have nothing to cling to. Simply closing off a "little bit here and a little bit there", creates a real problem. People, basically, want to do what's right. More and more laws only reinforces the idea in a person that he cannot be educated to preservation and that he is destructive to the public lands.

All of us must be educated to the conservation of our resources and the vehicle to do so is already there-----the U S D A.

Respectfully submitted,
Cherilee Johnson
Cherilee Johnson

CJ/cj

Enclosures: three


MONTANA
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West Big Hole Area
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Area proposed for wilderness by Montanans for the protection of the Big Hole
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Senator **Melcher**. Thank you, Cheri. I want to thank all of the witnesses. We do not have any questions and we will hear our last panel now.

Our last panel is Peter Coppleman, Wilderness Society; G. Kimball Hart; Bob Anderson of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition; Doug Chadwick, Flathead Chapter of the Montana Wilderness Association.

Our first from the panel is listed as Peter Coppleman.

STATEMENT OF PETER COPPLEMAN, DIRECTOR, FOREST WILDERNESS PROGRAMS, THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Mr. **Coppleman**. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Peter Coppleman, director of Forest Wilderness Programs of the Wilderness Society in Washington, DC.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on the important issue of wilderness preservation in Montana, where we have over 1,100 members. Our primary objections to the legislation as introduced are twofold. First, the inadequate wilderness designations compared to the 5 million acres of land to be released; and, second, the massive use of alternative categories to wilderness for over 500,000 acres of land eligible for wilderness designation.

I am pleased to join my friends in the Forest Service, the timber industry, and the oil and gas industry in opposing these special management provisions.

All other States have the same conflicts between wilderness groups and groups representing other uses of the Federal lands, such as timber, mining and off-road vehicles. But no other delegation has taken the approach of trying to resolve this conflict by creating vast numbers of new management categories. Wilderness is not more contentious in Montana than in other States. Industry organized opposition exists in all other States. Significantly, we regard Montana from a national perspective as having one of the strongest constituencies for wilderness of any Western State. Unfortunately, the bill as introduced fails to reflect this broad-based support.

We oppose alternative categories. And our fundamental concern is that the concept of wilderness will be eroded, that there will be alternative systems of land preservation established on an incremental State-by-State basis and that there will be a lower common denominator established for protection of wild and roadless public lands, and, in other words, of additions to the wilderness system.

We do not believe that Congress should statutorily prescribe the specific management direction for each area of the public lands being considered for wilderness. Otherwise Congress will become mired in disputes over the language necessary to create scenic areas, hiking areas, caribou management areas, fish management areas, limited access areas, spotted owl management valleys, summer only wilderness areas, recreation near wilderness areas, and so on. The possibilities are endless.

Thus far, we have successfully opposed any large-scale use of alternative wilderness in other States. For example, the region delegation was considering a fish management classification for the north fork of the John Day and they ultimately decided to make the area wilderness instead and we supported that change.

We suggest that the Montana delegation follow the pattern of all other States. That is make the wilderness versus nonwilderness decisions where they can. Where such decisions are not possible, put the controversial lands in a hold category, such as wilderness study and defer decisions for a later Congress. This is an approach that has been used in a number of State bills pending, including North Carolina and Virginia.

In conclusion, we look forward to working with the delegation to improve the bill, but we cannot support passage of the legislation in its present form.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Coppleman follows:]

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

FOUNDED IN 1935

STATEMENT OF PETER D. COPPELMAN REPRESENTING THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY BEFORE THE PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON S. 2850, THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984, AUGUST 9, 1984.

Mr. Chairman, I am Peter D. Coppelman, Director of Forest Wilderness Programs and Counsel of The Wilderness Society.

The Wilderness Society is a non-profit conservation organization, founded in 1935, dedicated to the proper management of public lands and the preservation of wilderness areas. The Society has a national membership of 105,000. We appreciate the opportunity to address this Subcommittee on the important issue of wilderness preservation in Montana, where we have over 1100 members.

We have two major objections to the proposed legislation: first, the grossly inadequate wilderness designations compared to the five million acres of land to be released; and second, the massive use of alternative categories to wilderness for over 500,000 acres of land eligible for wilderness designation. The Committee will hear today from many Montana witnesses who will address the first point. I will focus my remarks on the second.

Introduction

The Congress is dealing with a myriad of state wilderness bills in response to the Forest Service's RARE II study. There may be as many as 24 bills considered during this Congress. Periodically, there has been talk among state delegations of trying to solve some of the knotty problems of the wilderness designation process by creating categories less restrictive than wilderness -- variously called national recreation areas, special management areas, backcountry, or other appellations. For example, the Oregon delegation recently considered fashioning a "fish management area" in the North Fork John Day to protect the fisheries resource, but allow development activities inconsistent with a wilderness designation to proceed. We strongly opposed this approach and were pleased when the Oregon delegation abandoned a fish management designation in favor of wilderness. We have successfully opposed large-scale use of alternatives to wilderness in other state wilderness bills.

Consequently, we were shocked to see the massive use of alternative categories to wilderness for over 500,000 acres of land eligible for wilderness designation in the proposed Montana bill. Indeed, eleven separate areas would be administered under about nine separate management regimes. All other states have the same conflicts between wilderness groups and groups representing other uses of federal lands, such as timber, mining, and off-road vehicles. No other state delegation has taken the approach of trying to resolve this conflict by creating vast numbers of new management categories. Wilderness is not more contentious in Montana than in other states. Significantly, we regard Montana as having one of the strongest constituencies for wilderness of any western state. Sadly, the bill fails to reflect this broad-based support.

We believe that there are sound reasons for sticking with wilderness and not seeking refuge in other categories as substitutes for wilderness.

1. The concept of wilderness evolved over many years and should not be undermined now.

The idea of wilderness preservation appeared as early as 1851 when Henry Thoreau said "in wildness is the preservation of the world", but it remained for two foresters, Aldo Leopold and Robert Marshall, to give substance to the wilderness ideal and to prod persistently for the first government actions that put wilderness preservation on the road to reality. Leopold, a Forest Service employee, developed the concept of a "land ethic" and was responsible for establishment in 1924 of the 574,00 acre Gila Wilderness in New Mexico, the first dedication of public lands specifically for wilderness preservation in the world. Forest Service Regulation L-20 soon followed in 1929. It authorized the Chief Forester to establish and for the first time to give official sanction to "primitive" areas in national forests that were to be managed to maintain natural conditions "for purposes of public education and recreation."

Spurred by Robert Marshall, also a Forest Service employee, the Forest Service in September, 1939, issued the so-called U Regulations that defined wilderness more clearly and strengthened protection of these lands. The U Regulations revoked and replaced Regulation L-20 and carried wilderness preservation another major step forward. Under the new regulations, National Forest roadless areas were designated wilderness (over 100,000 acres) or wild (5,000-100,000 acres). Timber harvesting, road building, motor travel and permanent development were prohibited within the areas; mining, grazing, hunting, fishing, and camping were allowed.

The post-war years brought pressure on the Forest Service to lift the administrative regulatory protection of wilderness and to open some of these lands to timber cutting and development. This prompted Senator Hubert Humphrey to introduce the nation's first wilderness bill in 1956. Over the next eight years, Congress held numerous hearings on wilderness legislation. The wilderness preservation movement at last had the nation's attention. Public support expressed through the media and letters to members of Congress brought the Wilderness Act to a vote in the Senate in April, 1963, where it passed 73 to 12. In July of the next year, the bill passed the House of Representatives and the National Wilderness Preservation System became a reality.

2. Use of alternatives to wilderness in one state will create precedents that will be used by other states to minimize additions to the wilderness system.

One compelling reason for not deviating from wilderness is the problem of creating precedents in one state that will come back to haunt us in others. There is an understandable temptation to try to resolve a specific conflict between backpackers and off-road vehicle users in a given area,for example, by splitting the difference. Our fundamental concern is that the concept of wilderness will be eroded, that there will be an alternate system of land preservation established on an incremental, state-by-state basis, and that there will be a lower common denominator established for the protection of wild and roadless public lands. This argument has met resistance on the grounds that each state Congressional delegation should be free to fashion its own legislation regardless of the impacts on other states. Similar resistance greeted our insistence on the "soft" release formula for each state on the grounds that release language must be consistent from state to state.

The problem is that while each state RARE II bill is unique, each is also a part of a seamless web. What is done in one state impacts others. A good example of the interrelationship among the state bills is H.R. 4047, introduced in the last Congress and supported by the Forest Service, which not only would have enacted hard release on a nationwide basis, but also would have specifically repealed the soft release language already passed by Congress in six state wilderness bills.

The precedential problems posed by alternative designations to wilderness are equally troublesome. Indeed, in one respect the problem is even more serious: whereas release language concerns how much wilderness may or may not be enacted in the future, alternative designations may substantially reduce the amount of acreage added to the wilderness system now in the legislation pending before Congress. Because of the precedential problems, we have opposed any deviation from or dilution of the wilderness concept in state wilderness bills. Thus, we have resisted helicopter skiing in Utah, expansion of grazing rights in Arizona, and Clean Air Act amendments in Arkansas and Virginia, among others.

The fear that site-specific solutions in one state will come back to haunt us in others is not at all speculative. We are aware that delegations in Wyoming, Alabama, and other states are considering alternative classifications to wilderness in their deliberations. The problem will grow if it is not contained.

3. Use of alternative categories will create more problems than it solves.

If Congress strays from the concept of wilderness, it will find that it faces a Hobson's choice: either it will use broad generic language which fails to provide sufficiently stringent guidelines to assure the desired level of protection; or it will be compelled to write specific and detailed management prescriptions to meet the particular problems of each area under consideration. The former approach is typified by the language governing activities within national recreation areas. NRA's are administered pursuant to broad guidelines, such as the following contained in the Arapaho National Recreation Area, established by Public Law 95-450, 92 Stat. 1095.

4(b). The Secretary shall administer the Arapaho National Recreation Area, in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to the national forest, in such a manner as will as provide for

(1) public recreation and enjoyment;

(2) the conservation and development of the scenic, natural, historic, and pastoral values of the area;

(3) the management, utilization, and disposal of natural resources such as timber, grazing, and mineral resources so that their utilization will not substantially impair the purposes for which the recreation area is established; and

(4) the management of water quality in the recreation area consistent with the development of needed water supply and waste-water systems, including the control of aquatic vegetation in the streams, lakes, and reservoirs within the recreation areas. (Emphasis added)

This language provides no bar to uses which would alter the natural character of the land, such as timber and mineral extraction and extensive road building. The only limit is that such activities "will not substantially impair the purposes for which the recreation area is established." (Emphasis added) This standard is so loose as to be virtually no standard at all. For those who wish to permit ORV use, but not timbering (as is the case in many areas), this language is useless.

This alternative is to hand-tailor language to meet the particular needs of each area. The question is: does Congress want to become mired in disputes over language necessary to create areas such as caribou management areas, cougar/mule deer preserves, spotted owl management valley, native fish management areas, limited access areas, summer-only wilderness areas, recreation near-wilderness areas, and so on. How much, if any, timbering, mining, mineral leasing, road-building, road uses (temporary or permanent), habitat manipulation is to be allowed in each area? The possibilities are endless. Is it the role of Congress to devise specific management prescriptions for each area of the public lands? Furthermore, once Congress has acted, the problem of dealing with a myriad of different area-by-area directions falls on the Forest Service.

4. Since passage of the Wilderness Act of 1964, Congress has rejected alternatives as substitutes for wilderness; it should continue to do so.

Since the passage of the Wilderness Act, there have been many unsuccessful attempts to establish intermediate categories for the land, under such names as primitive area, backcountry area or wild area, as substitutes for wilderness. Congress, in enacting the Eastern Wilderness Act in 1975, rejected a proposal to designate "wild" areas and declare that the National Wilderness Preservation System would remain one system. In 1980 in the Alaska Lands Act, Congress rejected a proposal for nine "Special Management Areas" that would revert to timber harvest after ten years, and designated them all as wilderness. Each time, Congress recognized the value of keeping the wilderness system intact by not establishing lesser protective categories.

Congress has made it clear that alternative categories are not necessary because wilderness is a flexible management tool. In the 1970's, Congress criticized the Forest Service for adopting a "purity" definition of the concept of wilderness that would have disqualified most de facto roadless areas from further wilderness study. For example, the Forest Service imposed a "sights and sounds" test that downgraded any roadless areas subject to the sights and sounds of civilization many miles away. As the House Interior Committee Report on the Endangered American Wilderness Act, (House Report 95-940, 95th Congress, 2nd Session, July 27, 1977) made clear, this approach did not implement the intent of Congress in enacting the Wilderness Act. The Committee pointed out that the Wilderness Act permits hunting, fishing, trails, bridges, trial signs, whatever measures or "minimum tools" are needed to combat fire, insects, and disease, cabins (where appropriate), and sanitary facilities.

Conclusion

Where Congress has been unable to make the wilderness/non-wilderness decisions in a given bill, it often creates wilderness study areas. In these areas existing uses continue (even if not compatible with wilderness), but the lands are otherwise managed to preserve Congress' option to designate them as wilderness in later legislation. That is the approach taken in the Colorado and New Mexico RARE II bills passed in 1980, and it appears to be successful. We endorse this approach. It is reflected in the New Mexico bill and the House-passed California and Virginia bills, all of which contain some wilderness study lands.

In conclusion, as Congress deliberates the fate of some of the last remaining wild lands in the United States, we should keep in mind the words of Bob Marshall:

> "...the universe of wilderness, all over the United States, is vanishing with appalling rapidity. It is melting away like the last snowbank on some south-facing mountainside during a hot afternoon in June."

Congress should not hasten the disappearance of wilderness. As Aldo Leopold said: "Wilderness is a resource which can shrink, but not grow."

STATEMENT OF G. KIMBALL HART, MIDDLEBURG, VA

Mr. HART. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Kimball Hart. I am representing only myself and my family today. I ask that my full statement and supporting documents be placed in the record.

Senator MELCHER. Yes; all of the statements will be in the record.

Mr. HART. I am here today to request respectfully that you strike from S. 2850 the provision to exclude Goose Lake from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. I believe I have a unique perspective on the Beartooth Mountains passed to me through at least three generations. My father, my grandfather, and my great-grandfather all walked the Beartooths throughout most of their lives and are now buried there.

For myself, I have backpacked every major drainage in its beautiful area over the last 30 years and have drawn the only full color hiking map of the entire area available today. I believe I am the only person in the room today who is a direct descendant of an original claim holder at Goose Lake. It is one of life's ironies that John Hotchkiss and I now sit on opposite sides of the table in Washington, DC, as our grandfathers once sat on opposite sides at Goose Lake.

I would like to make two simple points, if I might. First, I am submitting for the record today almost a dozen documents starting in 1975 which illustrate that Senator Metcalf was fully briefed on the issue of Goose Lake prior to his decision to include it in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness as called for in S. 1671, the original bill.

In summary, I will note only four of those documents. On June 10, 1977, Senator Metcalf introduced S. 1671. I quote from his comments that day in the Congressional Record. He said, "My bill calls for inclusion of Goose Lake and a very narrow buffer zone on the southern edge of the overall area." His reasons follow.

On August 19, I supported his position in my testimony before the joint Senate-House field hearings in Billings, MT.

On December 8, 1977, at a personal meeting with Ted Roe and Senator Metcalf, we discussed the Senator's position to include Goose Lake. As we know, his death forestalled any major revisions to the bills, had it passed as he had wanted it.

Finally, I would point out that in 1978, House Report 95–927 and Senate Report 95–624 were printed. Those documents recorded the final negotiations on the Goose Lake Wilderness boundaries and specifically included the lake in the wilderness area.

I believe there is no more clear public documentation of the inclusion of any segment in the wilderness than that which exists for Goose Lake.

My second point, more briefly, is that there is simply no reason to remove the lake from the wilderness classification it now has. The values which originally justified Senator Metcalf's call for inclusion are as true today as ever. Its pristine beauty as a fragile high Alpine basin and its recreational value both as a spawning area for cutthroat trout and as a gateway to Grasshopper Glacier have not changed.

To my knowledge neither the mineralization, the marketplace, nor the impossible winter climate at Goose Lake have changed so significantly that deposits are suddenly now more economically recoverable than they ever have been. For nearly 100 years prior to the 1960's, it was the marketplace and not the conservationists that preserved Goose Lake. I believe the same is still true today.

Nevertheless, Senator Melcher, as you know your amendments to the Alaska bill insures reasonable access to those who deserve it, and the Wilderness Act itself provides for mining on valid claims.

Lastly, and I wish to emphasize this point, I believe it is a very dangerous precedent to designate the enduring value of wilderness one year and then to turn around and remove it virtually the next.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to close on a personal note. My grandfather died a poor man, still dreaming of wealth at Goose Lake. He had what is commonly called the gold fever. He squandered everything, everything he had, including his own family, in pursuit of his impossible dream. Unfortunately, the dream of great wealth, the fever, if you wish, can still be inspired in some by the sight of Goose Lake.

I would like to believe that our generation, while honoring our grandfathers yet differing from them, has discovered the true wealth at Goose Lake—its natural beauty and its wildness. I pray that we will pass that true wealth, undisturbed if possible, onto the generations to follow us.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Hart follows:]

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

REGARDING
STRIKING THE GOOSE LAKE DELETION
FROM THE
MONTANA WILDERNESS BILL
S. 2850

STATEMENT BY
MR. G. KIMBALL HART

August 9, 1984

G. K. Hart 8/9/84

SUMMARY STATEMENT
(3 minutes)

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I am Kimball Hart. I am here today to request respectfully that you strike from S. 2850 the provision to exclude Goose Lake from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. I believe I have a unique perspective on the Beartooth mountains passed to me through at least three generations. My father, my grandfather, and my great grandfather all walked the Beartooths throughout most of their lives and are now buried there. For myself, I have backpacked every major drainage in its beautiful area over the last 30 years and have drawn the only full color composite hiking map of the entire area available to this day. I believe I am the only person in the room today who is a direct descendant of an original claim holder at Goose Lake.

I would like to make two simple points.

First, I am submitting for the record today almost a dozen documents starting in 1975 which illustrate that Senator Metcalf was fully briefed on the issue of Goose Lake prior to his decision to include it in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness as called for in S. 1671 -- the original bill. In summary, I would note the following:

- June 10, 1977 - Senator Metcalf introduced S. 1671. I quote from the Congressional Record for that day:
  "My bill calls for inclusion of Goose Lake and a very narrow buffer zone on the southern edge of the overall area." His reasons follow.

- August 10, 1977 - Joint House-Senate hearings, Billings, Montana. More than 5 witnesses bring up and discuss the issue of including Goose Lake in the proposed wilderness.

- August 19, 1977 - I submitted my testimony to the joint Senate-House field hearings on S. 1671 in support of Senator Metcalf's position to include Goose Lake.

- October 6, 1977 - Representative Baucus made his statement in support of HR 1907 and referred specifically to its "carefully drawn" boundaries.

- December 8, 1977 - At a personal meeting with Ted Roe and Senator Metcalf, we discussed the Senator's position to include Goose Lake. As we know, his death forestalled any major revisions and the bill passed as he had wanted it .

- February, 1978 - House Report 95-927 and Senate Report 95-624. Recorded final negotiations on the wilderness boundaries and specifically discussed the Goose Lake boundaries including a 150 acre deletion to locate the proposed boundaries more precisely so that management of the area would be more practical.

My second point, more briefly, is that there is no reason to remove Goose Lake from the wilderness:

- The values which originally justified Senator Metcalf's call for inclusion are as true today as ever; its pristine beauty as a fragile high alpine basin and its recreational value both as a spawning area for cut-throat trout and as a gateway to Grasshopper Glacier have not changed.
- To my knowledge neither the mineralization, the marketplace, nor the impossible climate at Goose Lake have changed so significantly that deposits are now more "economically" recoverable than they have ever been.
- Senator Melcher's amendment to the Alaska Bill assures "reasonable access" for those who deserve it.
- The Wilderness Act itself provides for mining on valid claims.
- It is a dangerous precedent to designate the "enduring" value of wilderness one year and then try and remove it virtually the next.

Finally, I would like to close on a personal note. My grandfather died a poor man, still dreaming of wealth at Goose Lake. He had what is commonly called the "gold fever." He squandered everthing, everything he had including his own family, in pursuit of his impossible dream.

Unfortunately, the dream of great wealth (the fever, if you wish) can still be inspired in some by the sight of Goose Lake. I would like to believe that our generation, while honoring our grandfathers yet differing from them, has discovered the true wealth at Goose Lake -- its natural beauty and its wildness. I pray that we will pass that true wealth, undisturbed if possible, onto the generations to follow us.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the Committee.

-TESTIMONY-

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

I would like to focus my statement today on the provision of S. 2850 (the Montana Wilderness Bill) which calls for excluding several hundred acres of land including Goose Lake, Montana from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. I respectfully request that you strike this provision from the proposed bill.

I believe I have a unique perspective on this part of Montana which has come to me through several generations. My father, my grandfather, and my great grandfather all walked the Beartooths for most of their lives and all three are buried there.

For myself, I have backpacked every major drainage in the area over the last 30 years and before it was a wilderness, drew and published the only full color-composite hiking map of the entire Absaroka-Beartooth area. It remains the only such map available to this day.

I am one of a very few living descendants of an original claim holder at Goose Lake. My grandfather, Bud Hart, founded the Copper Glance Mining Company and was one of the original men to register claims at Goose Lake. As to the next generation in that line, my daughter's middle name is Montana.

I would like to make two simple points in my testimony today:

- Goose Lake did not become part of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness by mistake or accident, and

- There is no good reason I can think of to remove Goose Lake from wilderness status.

As to the first point, I am submitting for the record today a chronology of events and almost a dozen supporting documents starting as early as 1975 which illustrate that the issue of the wilderness status of Goose Lake was discussed at length for years prior to 1977 and that Senator Metcalf was fully briefed on the issues prior to his decision to include Goose Lake in the wilderness area called for in S. 1671 -- the original bill. I would like to point out the following from that chronology and the related documents:

- 1970-73 - During this period, the issue of Goose Lake was raised and discussed as part of both U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Forest Service studies of the proposed wilderness area.

- March, 1974 - Hearings in Billings, Montana on the Montana Wilderness Proposal.
  I testified at these hearings, raised the issue of Goose Lake, and generally supported classifications of the two primitive areas as on contiguous wilderness.

- April 21, 1977 - Conversation with Bill Cunningham, Wilderness Association.

  In this phone conversation I raised the issue of Goose Lake. At this point the issue was unresolved but was being discussed at length. The Wilderness Society supported its inclusion. The major focus of the battle at this point, however, was preventing a road through the Slough Creek Corridor.

- June 10, 1977 - Senator Metcalf introduces S. 1671.

  The issue of Goose Lake is resolved. Senator Metcalf calls for inclusion of Goose Lake in the proposed wilderness area and lists his reasons for doing so. His remarks are made part of the Congressional Record for that day.

- July, 1977 - Wilderness Hearing Alert - Wilderness Society.

  The alert announces the unprecedented step of joint House-Senate Hearings on HR 1907 and S. 1671. The newsletter specifically mentions the "spectacular Goose Lake Basin" and calls for its inclusion as a qualified area contiguous to the Beartooth primitive area.

- August 10, 1977 - Joint Senate-House Field Hearings in Billings Montana.

  My testimony for these hearings was submitted by mail on August 19, 1977. I specifically addressed the issue of Goose Lake and pointed out that although mineralization had long been known in the area it had never proven reasonable or economical to mine it. The generally low quality of the deposits and the short season when mining can proceed without major obstacles from the weather were given as likely reasons mining had not occurred in the past. At that time, I fully supported inclusion of Goose Lake in the wilderness.

- October 6, 1977 - Representative Baucus issues a statement in support of HR 1907.

  Although Representative Baucus' statement does not specifically address the issue of Goose Lake, it does go to some length to state "the boundary has been carefully drawn to exclude most of the adjacent productive timberlands and mineralized areas..." Note that the statement does not say "all" mineralized areas.

- December 8, 1977 - My meeting with Ted Roe and Senator Metcalf to discuss S. 1671.

  My reasons for requesting this meeting were to thank Senator Metcalf for his long support of S. 1671 and to lobby for his continued support for including Goose Lake in the wilderness area. The meeting was especially cordial. Senator Metcalf seemed to take great pleasure in stories about my grandfather and his escapades at Goose Lake and in nearby Cooke City.

  We discussed the proposed location of the boundary south of Goose Lake down to the specific location of a narrow section of road which could be easily blocked to prevent continued access by 4-wheel drive vehicles.

  Senator Metcalf was clearly conversant with the issues to a very impressive level of detail. There was no question of his original intention to include Goose Lake in the wilderness. He still supported this position and hoped it would survive the mark-up process yet ahead. As we know, his death forestalled any major revisions and the bill passed as he had wanted it.

As to my second point, there is no good reason I can think of to remove Goose Lake from wilderness status. Its pristine beauty as a fragile high alpine basin and its recreational value as both a spawning area for cutthroat trout and as a gateway to Grasshopper Glacier have not changed. In fact, if anything, the past six years have improved its natural beauty as scars from the past have begun to heal.

Furthermore, to my knowledge, neither the quality of the mineralization, nor the marketplace for minerals, nor the impossible winter climate of the area have changed so significantly that it now makes sense to do what has never made economic sense before -- long before wilderness status was even a word in our vocabulary. For nearly a hundred years prior to the 1960's, it was the marketplace and not the conservationists which preserved Goose Lake.

Should I be wrong in my estimation, those who still have claims at Goose Lake are still free to search for and produce what is their right. Senator Melcher's amendment to the Alaska Bill insures "reasonable" access to inholders. The right to mine valid claims within the wilderness is protected by special provisions of the Wilderness Act itself.

It is, however, a dangerous precedent to designate the "enduring" value of wilderness one year and then try to remove it virtually the next.

We cannot be fickle about such important deliberations. I presume others are here today who understand the broad implications of such actions for our whole wilderness system and will speak to these issues better than I. I can only say that the deliberations leading up to the boundaries of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in the area of Goose Lake were long and careful. It is a poor case upon which to test the process by which we select and preserve wilderness.

I would like to conclude on a personal note. My grandfather died a poor man, still dreaming of wealth at Goose Lake. He had what is commonly called the "gold fever." He squandered everything, everything he had including his own family, in pursuit of his impossible dream. Unfortunately the dream of great wealth (the fever, if you wish) can still be inspired in some by the sight of Goose Lake. I would like to believe that our generation, while honoring our grandfathers yet differing from them, has discovered the true wealth at Goose Lake -- its natural beauty and its wildness. I pray that we will pass that true wealth, undisturbed if possible, onto the generations to follow us.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the Committee.

ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS

Personal Chronology of Key Events
(Attachments to statement by G. K. Hart - 8/9/84)

		ATTACHMENT NUMBER
September,1972	Completion of U.S.G.S. Field Work.	
November, 1973	Publication of U.S.G.S. open file copy.	
February, 1974	Publication of U.S.F.S. Proposal.	
March, 1974	I testified at hearings in Billings, Montana on U.S.F.S. Wilderness Proposal.	
September, 1974	Recommendation to President.	
December, 1974	President's recommendation to Congress.	
March, 1975	My letter to Senator Metcalf's office requesting Wilderness Bill.	
March 24, 1975	Reply from Senator Metcalf.	#1
April 21, 1977	Phone conversation with Bill Cunningham raising issue of Goose Lake.	
June 10, 1977	Senator Metcalf statement in Congressional Record introducing S.1671 calls for inclusion of Goose Lake.	#2
June 23, 1977	Representative Baucus' statement on Absaroka-Beartooth in Congressional Record.	#3
July 6, 1977	My letter to Senator Metcalf requesting field hearings in Montana as soon as possible. Copies to Melcher, Baucus, Marlenee.	#4
July 13, 1977	Senator Metcalf's reply to my letter - encloses introductory remarks.	#5
July 18, 1977	Representative Baucus acknowledges letter.	
July 19, 1977	Senator Melcher acknowledges letter.	
July, 1977	Wilderness Hearing Alert Newsletter calls out issue of Goose Lake.	#6
August 10, 1977	Joint Senate-House field hearings on S.1671 in Billings. More than 5 witnesses bring up and discuss the issue of including Goose Lake in the proposed wilderness.	

August 19, 1977 - My testimony (submitted in writing to be part of joint hearing record) in support of Senator Metcalf's proposal to include Goose Lake in Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. #7

September 7, 1977- Senator Metcalf's staff reply acknowledging testimony and making it part of official hearing record. #8

October 6, 1977 - Representative Baucus' statement supporting the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Bill (HR 1907) and its "carefully drawn" boundaries. #9

December 8, 1977 - Meeting with Ted Roe and Senator Metcalf to discuss S. 1671 and to support his position on Goose Lake.

February, 1978 - House Report 95-927 and Senate Report 95-624. Records final negotiation to include Goose Lake in proposed wilderness and revises boundaries to improve management.

March, 1978 - Bills passed creating Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness area.

July 9, 1984 - Article in Billings Gazette wherein Senator Melcher claims Goose Lake boundaries are a mistake. #10

July 13, 1984 - My letter to Bill Cunningham clarifying public record on Goose Lake. #11

August 9, 1984 - Hearing on Montana Wilderness Bill, S.2850, before Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water.

HENRY M. JACKSON, WASH., CHAIRMAN
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GRENVILLE GARSIDE, SPECIAL COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM J. VAN NESS, CHIEF COUNSEL

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

24 March 1975

Mr. G. Kimball Hart
Maple Avenue - Pole 1310
Little Compton, Rhode Island 02837

Dear Mr. Hart:

Your letter to Teddy Roe of my staff regarding the Beartooth Wilderness proposal has been brought to my attention.

It is highly unlikely that any Congressional action will occur on this proposal before early summer, if then. It is a matter of priorities. The Senate Interior Committee has been extremely busy with energy-related legislation such as the federal strip mining bill. And I have been concentrating on those problem areas in Montana where the natural resources are under immediate threat. I refer to S. 393, my Montana Wilderness Study bill, and a proposal to give to the Missouri River in Central Montana wild and scenic river status.

This is not to deny the tremendous importance of the Beartooth Wilderness Area proposal. I will ultimately support an expansion of the area recommended by the Forest Service, although I am not prepared to say yet what the final boundaries will be. But except for the Cedar-Bassett area, the rest of the Beartooth region is relatively unthreatened for now. I will, of course, continue to insist that the Forest Service refrain from compromising the wilderness values of Cedar-Bassett until Congress has a chance to act on the bill.

Senate hearings on the Beartooth will ultimately be up to Senator Floyd Haskell of Colorado, chairman of the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Interior Committee. I expect the bill to have relatively smooth sailing in the Senate. I am hopeful that we

send him a letter to be sure to have notice of hearings

ATTACHMENT #1

will also have the support of the two Montana House members when the legislation is considered in that body.

I will attempt to keep the public informed of hearing plans through the Montana press and organizations such as the Montana Wilderness Association.

I appreciate hearing from you on this matter.

Very truly yours,

Congressional Record
June 10, 1977

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. METCALF:

S. 1671. A bill to designate the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Custer and Gallatin National Forests, in the State of Montana; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. METCALF. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce for appropriate reference the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Act of 1977.

The Forest Service has for years maintained as primitive areas in Montana two parcels of land identified as the Absaroka and the Beartooth lying north and east of Yellowstone National Park. They totaled 64,000 and 230,000 acres respectively.

After holding public hearings in 1974, the Agency formally proposed that the areas be unified and expanded into an Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area of 542,000 acres.

My proposal further expands the acreage to approximately 913,500. It includes one major area—the large North Absaroka Range—upon which the Forest Service postponed a judgment and several smaller adjoining fringe areas which the agency had rejected.

Despite the view held by many that the logical boundaries of an expanded Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area must include the contiguous high lake country across the Wyoming border, I have refrained from including it at the request of the senior Senator from Wyoming, Senator CLIFFORD HANSEN.

Mr. President, while no area of this size could be completely free of controversy, the concept of an expanded Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness proposal has received a remarkably wide degree of acceptance. It has been endorsed in Montana by Gov. Thomas Judge, numerous conservation groups, the Montana Fish and Game Department, the Montana League of Women Voters, and others. Many national groups also favor its creation, as does President Carter, who singled out the Absaroka-Beartooth for support in his recent Environmental Message of May 23.

Located in the Gallatin and Custer National Forests of southern Montana, this magnificent primeval expanse of nearly a million acres consists of a major part of the remaining wild country in the Absaroka Range and the Beartooth Plateau. The proposed wilderness is a land of jewel-like lakes, clear cold streams and picturesque waterfalls. It is an area of glaciated timbered valleys and rugged summits. Granite Peak, at 12,799, feet in elevaiton on the Beartooth Plateau, is the highest point in Montana. The entire roadless tract is a major quality watershed for the Yellowstone River, one of America's finest blue-ribbon trout streams. With steep slopes and unstable soils, much of the area is easily disturbed by the works of man and is slow to heal.

Geologically, the Beartooths are both young and old. The basement rocks, pre-Cambrian gneisses and schists, are among the oldest in the world. Indeed one recent analysis asserts that they are the oldest in the world, other still than those found in Greenland, previously believed to hold the record. The mountains of the Absaroka, however, are young, having been uplifted during a recent geologic era through the overlying volcanic and sedimentary strata which typify the range. The difference between the durable metamorphic rocks of the Beartooths and the softer rocks of the Absarokas has resulted in two strikingly distinct topographies and a corresponding diversity in ecosystems.

In the Beartooths, there is vast space and flowing water. Numerous waterfalls and nearly 300 lakes dot the high and often treeless plateaus. The Absarokas are much gentler in aspect than the Beartooths. Deep forested valleys with rich moist soils support ferns, mosses, sedges, and a myriad of wildflowers.

This magnificent high country has caught the imagination of countless thousands of people who have seen it. The Crow Indians have always revered it as sacred giving it its current name "Absaroka" which is their word for their own tribe. Rugged mountain men followed in the wake of the Indians, and succeeding generations have crisscrossed it, taking beaver, occasional metals, and other items. However, the region remains primeval in almost all its aspects, and qualified as an outstanding example of remaining wilderness in this country.

The area provides irreplaceable habitat for many species of wildlife that require an essentially wilderness environment to prosper. Among them are the endangered northern Rocky Mountain wolf, the threatened grizzly bear, and elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, pine marten, wolverine, bald and golden eagles, and cutthroat trout. These high mountain zones represent the last refuge of these and other important wildlife species.

The Absaroka-Beartooth region offers the ultimate in recreational possibilities. In fact, it is already used by thousands of people as a de facto wilderness and the numbers are sure to grow. It supports a large guiding and outfitting industry, which adds to the economy of the region. It is particularly attractive to visitors because of its accessibility. The area can be reached easily from Billings and Red Lodge in the east, Columbus and Big Timber in the north, Livingston in the west, Gardiner and Cooke City in the south, and from several points in Yellowstone Park. The overwhelming majority of current visitors are Montanans, supporting the pattern revealed in other Montana wildernesses which show that 80 percent of users are Montanans. As total numbers grow, this percentage is expected to remain more or less constant.

The proposal introduced today represents both an earlier proposal and a citizens' response to the Forest Service recommendation advanced during the last administration. The agency completed its studies of the two primitive areas and certain contiguous national forest lands and held public hearings in March 1974, in Billings and Livingston, Mont., and in Cody, Wyo. At that time, it proposed separate Absaroka, Beartooth, and Cutoff Mountain Wildernesses totaling 517,000 acres. Meanwhile, an alternative proposal was being recommended by the Montana Wilderness Association and a collection of other groups interested in preservation of the State's natural areas. Its proposal called for a unified wilderness of more than 900,000 acres in Montana and Wyoming. At the hearings, strong support developed for a single wilderness area. The Montana Fish and Game Department endorsed the unified proposal and Gov. Thomas Judge urged that "all qualified lands be classified to provide the maximum wilderness area possible." He has recently reconfirmed in a letter to me his unqualified support for a maximum-acreage unified Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area.

As a result of the strong public reaction, the Forest Service released a revised plan in July of 1974 calling for a 542,419-acre Beartooth Wilderness which combined the Agency's earlier separate recommendations. Although much improved, conservationists felt it omitted major adjoining lands of outstanding wilderness value. Chief among them were the Northern Absaroka Range in the northwest, the Cedar-Bassett drainages in the far west, the Goose Lake area in the south near Cooke City—the easternmost of Montana's three entrances to Yellowstone National Park—and the Wyoming high lake country. My proposal contains all of these suggested additions except the Wyoming portion, plus some selected smaller areas.

As can be expected, my proposal is not without controversy. Where possible, I have attempted to modify it to meet what I consider to be sincere and legitimate criticism. The major concession has to do with a possible road route from Cooke City northward to the Boulder Basin. During 1974, the same year in which hearings were held, there was discovered in the records of Park County a petition dating from the late 1800's for a county road right-of-way through this corridor, also called the Slough Creek corridor. The counties of Park and Sweet Grass, through which the corridor runs, maintain that the document gives them jurisdiction over a road right-of-way in the area. Such a right-of-way would permit the splitting of the huge area in two nearly equal parts. The Office of General Counsel of the Forest Service has investigated the records and con-

(over)

ATTACHMENT #2

ducted on-the-ground reconnaissance and has concluded:

> Based upon all the facts and law presented, no county road was ever established and constructed. The Grant of 43 U.S.C. 932 was not accepted and therefore the area in dispute has always been and still remains under the jurisdiction of the United States.

Park and Sweet Grass Counties dispute this and have entered a challenge in the Federal courts. Although my bill contains the Slough Creek corridor, I have included a proviso in this proposed legislation which would, in effect, abide by the court's decision. The language, as quoted from section 4 of the bill, states:

> Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting in any manner or to any extent any claim by Park County, Montana, and Sweet Grass County, Montana, to a right-of-way from Cooke City, Montana, to Boulder, or to affect in any manner or to any extent the relative rights and liabilities between the parties in connection with Cause No. 76-125-BLG, Park County, Montana, and Sweet Grass County, Montana, versus U.S.A., et al. filed in the United States District Court for the District of Montana, Billings Division, on October 4, 1976. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as abating such cause or as amending or otherwise affecting or modifying the provision of law pursuant to which such cause was filed.

I do not, of course, know how the court will rule in this matter. It is my preliminary opinion, based upon the facts which I have been able to review, that the weight of law favors the Forest Service. It is also my considered judgment that the Congress could be persuaded to declare the corridor as wilderness, thereby nullifying a possible judicial victory for the counties. However, I do feel that in the interests of fair play, the matter should be determined on its legal merits and, although risks are involved for wilderness advocates, I am willing to abide by a court decision.

Mention should be made of other areas which I have added to the Forest Service proposal. The largest one is the North Absaroka, a prime area of 253,000 acres which was bypassed by the Agency pending completion of a mineral survey. That survey has been completed, and it concludes that mineral potential is marginal at best. The Forest Service has rated this area highly, giving it a maximum 300 points on the Agency's scale of wilderness rating—the only one of 1,449 inventoried roadless areas nationwide receiving a perfect score.

The Cedar-Bassett Area, comprising the Cedar and Bassett Creek drainages, lies at the extreme western edge of my proposed area. The Forest Service has in the past planned timber sales in the area, but has since, of its own volition, halted all activity. The area's value as wildlife habitat and watershed outweighs, in my opinion, its value for timber.

*

My bill calls for inclusion of Goose Lake and a very narrow buffer zone on the southern edge of the overall area. Goose Lake, magnificent in itself, is the gateway to Grasshopper Glacier, a phenomenon in which ancient insects are frozen in ice, as well as to pristine high country beyond. There has been considerable vehicular damage around Goose Lake. It should be given the benefit of wilderness protection.

Northwest of my proposed Absaroka-Beartooth area is the so-called Stillwater Complex, a mineralized zone containing several metals which are in increasing demand. By and large, I have not intruded upon the complex. However, I have included the West Fork of the Stillwater River above the current Johns-Manville platinum mine adit. This portion of the West Fork drainage is of prime wilderness quality and its meadows serve the elk in their yearly migrations.

The boundaries of my proposal are carefully drawn and are, I believe, highly defensible. They include one of the largest remaining contiguous blocs of prime wilderness left in the Lower 48 States. Evidence of man's impact is minimal throughout. Especially important is the miniscule evidence of private inholdings in the proposed wilderness area. The most significant inholdings, totaling 570 acres, lie in the upper, or southern, end of the controversial Slough Creek corridor. Its owner, Cornelius Bliss, in the selfless spirit of a true preservationist, has generously offered to the U.S. Forest Service an option to purchase his property and has agreed not to alter the property during the term of the option. Supporters of a unified Absaroka-Beartooth are grateful to Mr. Bliss, and I, for one, will do what I can to secure funding for the Agency's purchase of the property after this bill is enacted into law.

In summary, Mr. President, this proposed wilderness lacks significant amounts of sawtimber, and no operable minerals are known to exist in the area. Also, no reasonable potential for water development can be found there. The entire unit is ideally suited for immediate inclusion in the wilderness system.

This wild expanse of high mountain country provides the only opportunity left in Montana to designate a superb wilderness of nearly a million acres. Northern Montana citizens are justly proud of the outstanding 950,000-acre Bob Marshall wilderness. Citizens of southern Montana are entitled to an equally magnificent Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness.

I urge prompt hearings and enactment of the legislation, and I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the bill be printed at this point in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1671

S. 1671

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in accordance with section 3(b) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890), the area classified as the Beartooth and Absaroka Primitive Areas, with the proposed additions thereto and deletions therefrom as generally depicted on a map entitled "Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness," date June 1977, which is on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, is hereby designated as the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, within and as part of the Custer and Gallatin National Forests, comprising an area of approximately nine hundred thirteen thousand five hundred acres.

SEC. 2. As soon as practicable after this Act takes effect, the Secretary of Agriculture shall file a map and legal description of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness with the Energy and Natural Resources Committee of the Senate and the Interior and Insular Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, and such description shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act: *Provided, however*, That correction of clerical and typographical errors in such legal description and map may be made.

SEC. 3. The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act governing areas designated by that Act as wilderness areas, except that any reference in such provisions to the effective date of the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to be a reference to the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 4. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as affecting in any manner or to any extent any claim by Park County, Montana, and Sweet Grass County, Montana, to a right-of-way from Cooke City, Montana, to Boulder, or to affect in any manner or to any extent the relative rights and liabilities between the parties in connection with Cause No. 76-125-BLG, Park County, Montana, and Sweet Grass County, Montana, versus U.S.A., et al. filed in the United States District Court for the District of Montana, Billings Division, on October 4, 1976. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as abating such cause or as amending or otherwise affecting or modifying the provision of law pursuant to which such cause was filed.

SEC. 5. The previous classification of the Beartooth and Absaroka Primitive Areas is hereby abolished.

S-9387-89

MAX BAUCUS
1st District, Montana
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Friend,

For nearly three years I have actively sought your comments and suggestions concerning wilderness study legislation affecting Montana. On June 23, 1977, I made my recommendations to the House Public Lands Subcommittee on the Montana Wilderness study areas.

I appreciated your letters, phone calls and our discussions regarding this important issue. Please take a few moments and read my recommendations. If you have any questions or additional comments, please feel free to let me know.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

Max

Congressional Record
United States of America
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 95th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION
Vol. 123 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1977 No. 109

MONTANA WILDERNESS PROPOSALS

HON. MAX BAUCUS

OF MONTANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 23, 1977

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. Speaker, after nearly 2½ years of serious deliberation I submitted to the House Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands my recommendations regarding various wilderness study proposals in my district. A copy of my statement follows:

RECOMMENDATIONS BY CONGRESSMAN MAX BAUCUS FOR MONTANA WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

Mr. Chairman, in Congress legislation is pending to designate up to 2½ million acres in Montana for either wilderness study or instant wilderness. Today, your subcommittee is marking-up the National Endangered Wilderness Bill, H.R. [illegible], which includes three Montana areas totaling roughly 140,000 acres.

When I testified before your Subcommittee earlier this year, I indicated that I would first examine all of the proposed wilderness areas in Montana, including the three in the Endangered bill, and then submit my recommendations to the subcommittee. I have completed my examination, and I would like today to provide to you my recommendations for the disposition of 13 proposed wilderness areas in Montana.

I would like now to recommend to the Subcommittee the deletion of the three Montana areas, which are the subject of your deliberation this morning, from the National Endangered Wilderness Bill. Secondly, I recommend that the Subcommittee move expeditiously to enact S. 393, the Montana Wilderness Study Bill, which contains nine proposed wilderness areas, including one of the areas I propose to be dropped from the Endangered bill.

At the end of this statement I will make several other recommendations on Montana-related wilderness proposals. But first, I would like to discuss the process I followed in formulating the two recommendations made above.

Announcing these two recommendations this morning is a comparatively simple exercise. What was difficult for me was the task of collecting and analyzing enough information to ensure that my recommendations would strike a proper balance between maintaining the economic stability of my State and retaining some of its beautiful untouched lands from further development. Certainly in seeking that balance, I sought to avoid either extreme.

ECONOMICS VERSUS AESTHETICS

This issue, "jobs versus wilderness," is of too great significance to the citizens of Montana and the nation to be decided on emotion or ideology. The recommendations I make this morning will likely play a major role in the eventual outcome of the Montana-related wilderness legislation now pending before Congress. I do not take this responsibility lightly, for Federal land use decisions made over the coming months will have a far reaching and long-lasting effect upon Montana and our national public land policies.

Over the past two and one-half years I devoted considerable time and thought to studying the wilderness proposals affecting Montana—a state, incidentally, which is blessed with unusually abundant natural resources. Since nearly one third of the area in my state is federally owned, Montanans depend greatly upon public lands for a major portion of their economic well-being. Yet, Montana is one of the most wild and beautiful areas left in our nation. Indeed, many areas in the Western Congressional District are still virtually untouched by the hand of man.

Montana possesses at least five resources which in the decades ahead will become more precious and scarce—food, trees, energy-potential, minerals, and space. The decisions which we make now regarding these resources will determine to a great extent whether a stable and productive economy can be maintained in Montana without developing all its remaining undeveloped public lands.

INTENSIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

I approached the wilderness proposals with no preconceptions. I did not cosponsor any of the Montana wilderness proposals because I wanted to study objectively each area. To this end, I conducted over twenty-seven meetings in affected areas. Additionally, I conducted on-site wilderness area inspections together with representatives of industry, environmental and other interested parties. Also, I sought the advice and counsel of many other wilderness proponents and opponents. Finally, I requested numerous studies regarding the various wilderness proposals from the Forest Service, and the Congressional Research Service (CRS).

In past months, I received more mail on wilderness issues than virtually any other subject since my election to Congress. Feelings on the wilderness issue are, to say the least, intense. This was demonstrated to me once again last weekend when this Subcommittee held field hearings in Montana. On a few days notice, more than [illegible] Montanans, representing scores of organizations and dozens of viewpoints, travelled for hours to the State Capitol to offer in a few minutes their views on what should be done with the various Montana-related wilderness proposals now pending before Congress.

This is a controversial issue in Montana. A shrinking timber base, higher costs and increased demand for wood products in the past few years underlie the grave concern that the Montana forest products' employers and employees have about additional proposals. As new roads are punched into a previously undeveloped roadless areas, wilderness proponents are concerned that too little is being done to protect any of the state's remaining undesignated wilderness land. Yes, Mr. Chairman, this is indeed a controversial issue.

We are at a policy crossroads as a result of the wilderness land controversy. Yet, I am convinced, after careful analysis, that we can have a stable forest economy and at the same time study more of the areas in question for possible inclusion into the National Wilderness System.

In making this decision, the principal issue I have been concerned with over these past months is whether proposed wilderness areas can be studied without unduly affecting timber production and other recreational uses. The timber harvest potential for the proposed areas—except for the McGregor-Thompson, is not substantial.

This comes as no great surprise to me. I remember last year when an independent study of the S. 393 areas estimated that the annual potential harvest of these areas was less than seventeen million board feet. I also learned from the Forest Service that, with increased funding for intensive timber management, by 1990 Montana's forests should produce substantially more than the amount of potential harvest lost through wilderness study.

According to USFS, with $14.4 million in additional timber management funds, Region I would produce more than 100 million additional board feet each year. The increased 1978 appropriation for USFS (H.R. [illegible], H. Rept. [illegible]) would provide Region I with substantially more funds than $14.4 million. Estimates vary, but I expect that the FY 78 Regional figure for timber management alone will be at least [illegible] million.

Additionally, the USFS estimates of increased yield through more intensive forestry management of roaded areas is based on the assumption that the Region will contain at least 10.8 million acres of Commercial Forest Land in 1990. Currently, the region contains 13.5 million acres (CFL) and, if all of the proposed areas in Montana were managed as wilderness in 1990, the Regional total for commercial forest land would be reduced only by about 400,000 acres of commercial forest land, leaving a 1990 Regional total of more than 13 million acres CFL.

Mr. Chairman, in light of the above, I believe my recommendations, if followed, would permit the addition of substantial Montana land in the National Wilderness System without reducing Montana harvests, provided, of course, that Congress continues to support intensive forest management practices. At the risk of repeating myself, Mr. Chairman, I must emphasize here that intensive management is the key to providing a balance between jobs and wilderness. Without continued federal support in this area, the balance is tipped.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS

I would like now to make five additional proposals. First, I respectfully request the Committee to reduce the total study and recommendation period on S. 393 from seven to three years.

Second, if the Subcommittee approves for study all nine areas now included in S. 393, which I trust it will see fit to do before the August recess, I respectfully request that the Subcommittee urge the Forest Service to place the highest priority on studying the Mt. Henry and West Pioneer areas. If after

ATTACHMENT #3

the expedited study period, the Forest Service finds that any portion of these two study areas should not be wilderness, I further request the Subcommittee to permit the Forest Service to make separate and expedited legislative recommendations on those two areas.

Third, I respectfully request the Subcommittee to move expeditiously in reporting out a wilderness bill for the Absaroka-Beartooth Primitive Areas. This legislation is pending in both Houses of Congress, and in light of its broad-based support in Montana, I think the Subcommittee can move quickly to report it favorably.

My fourth proposal relates to Spanish Peaks, another primitive area in the Gallatin National Forest. A significant obstacle with the wilderness proposals for this area concerns private land holdings. Therefore, I respectfully request the Subcommittee to urge the Forest Service to move expeditiously to effect an exchange of the private lands for other National Forest land. Additional information on this issue is attached as an appendix to my statement.

My fifth and final proposal concerns the Forest Service studies of the Great Bear and Elkhorn studies mandated by the 94th Congress. Those studies will be completed soon and whatever the outcome of the studies, I respectfully urge the Subcommittee to move promptly on this matter in order for Congressional action to be taken on it during the 95th Congress.

I would like to end my statement by noting that my last recommendations, as with nearly all of my previous proposals, concerns the question of time. Put simply, it is running out. So Congress must move expeditiously to eliminate the uncertainty on the part of resource extraction industries and wilderness proponents regarding the eventual size of the National Wilderness System.

If all parties work cooperatively and quickly, these National Wilderness System decisions can be made without impairing the immediate resource productivity of roadless lands ultimately excluded from this system.

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to present my recommendations this morning. I appreciate the sensitivity you have shown me and my fellow Montanans on issues of such vital concern to our state.

Wilderness correspondence and Montana Forest data I compiled for presentation in the Congressional Record of June 15.

I am keenly interested in these wilderness study proposals because many of the potential study areas are in the congressional district which I represent. For the benefit of my colleagues, I include the following information which I hope will be of assistance as the House considers various wilderness study area proposals.

The House Subcommittee on Public Lands will mark up H.R. 3454 on Thursday, June 23. This bill will designate three study areas in Montana. The same subcommittee will conduct a field hearing in my district on Saturday, June 18, dealing with S. 393, the Montana Wilderness Study Act, sponsored by Montana's senior Senator, LEE METCALF. This legislation proposes nine areas in Montana for wilderness study. S. 393 passed the Senate in late May. In addition, H.R. 1997 would designate the Spanish Peaks and the Beartooth-Absaroka areas for wilderness study. The President, in his environment message, recommended an expansion of the proposed Beartooth-Absaroka Wilderness Study area.

Congress must begin to do some long-range thinking about the ultimate size and location of the Wilderness Study System. The current practice of area-by-area classification obscures the need for a comprehensive view of the national system envisioned in 1964, when the Wilderness Act became law.

I enclose for the RECORD copies of letters which I have sent to Assistant Secretary Cutler, his response, and supporting materials:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., May 13, 1977.
Hon. M. RUPERT CUTLER,
Assistant Secretary for Conservation, Research and Education, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SECRETARY CUTLER: I am writing to request your immediate assistance in connection with two wilderness bills that directly affect my legislative district. Last week you testified before a House Interior Subcommittee in connection with H.R. 3454, the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1977. In that testimony, you expressed the Administration's support for instant wilderness designation for the Mt. Henry and McGregor-Thompson areas. I would like to have the opportunity to discuss with you in some detail the rationale that the Department followed in making this recommendation.

In this discussion, I would like to consider a number of items, many of which you can assist me substantially in obtaining background information. First, I am particularly intrigued by a statement made to me the other day by a friend of mine from the Wilderness Society, Bill Cunningham. Bill said that on a sustained-yield basis, the U.S. forests in Montana could provide an annual allowable cut equal to that for the average annual cut over the past five years. If this is so, it would seem to me that the Forest Service can provide enough timber to the Montana forest products industry to meet our state's employment needs without sacrificing any further intrusion into roadless areas.

I am intrigued by this notion, primarily because almost every time I talk with somebody from the forest products industry in Montana, I am told that it is necessary to go into new land if the industry is to sustain itself at current levels.

Perhaps you can help me address this question by providing information on a forest-by-forest basis on the following items. For the past five years and for the next five years on a projected basis, what is the forest sustained yield, its allowable cut, the amount of board feet actually placed on bid, the amount of board feet actually purchased, and, finally, the amount of board feet actually cut. If there is a way to disaggregate that information to relate it directly to the wilderness areas, that would be helpful, but it is not necessary.

My suspicion is that currently roaded areas may not be able to provide enough in the way of allowable cuts to sustain Montana's forest products industry at existing levels unless more intensive forestry practices are used than are currently provided by the U.S. Forest Service. This is not intended as a criticism of the Forest Service. Rather, the intensity of forestry practices is largely a function of budget. Fortunately, the Interior Appropriations Committee has seen fit to recommend nearly a $300 million increase in the Forest Service budget for reforestation. How much impact that will have on Montana now and in the future is something I do not know. However, you may have information on that particular item, and if so, I would certainly like to know your views.

Perhaps it would be possible to provide me actual and projected data on existing allowable cuts and projected allowable cuts given various hypothetical increases in funds available for intensive management practices. For example, in your estimation, how much would Montana's allowable cuts be affected by national increases in reforestation budgets in increments of $100 million?

One final note on reforestation. A good bit of my thinking of late in this area was prompted by a passage from your testimony before Mr. Roncalio's subcommittee when you stated that, "I can assure the Committee that I will be coming back to you and to your colleagues in the Appropriations Committee to request the funds needed to enhance production of both public and private lands of the needed balance of both goods and services."

Another area I would like to explore with you in our meeting is the extent to which roadless areas have been studied by the Forest Service. In your prepared testimony submitted to Chairman Roncalio, you noted that the Forest Service has carefully considered the status and condition of variety of wilderness areas. As you know, there are currently twelve prospective wilderness areas now being considered by Congress. Three of those are in H.R. 3454. Nine others are in S. 393, but there is one area, Mt. Henry, that is included in both bills. The twelfth wilderness prospect is the Beartooth-Absaroka proposal that Senator Metcalf plans to submit legislation for soon.

For those twelve areas, I am particularly interested in the following information. What is the status of the wilderness studies done on them by the Forest Service? How long have those studies taken, and how much longer is it expected before they are completed? Roughly, what does it cost to prepare those studies? Has the public been involved in the studies, and if so, to what degree? Finally, are there reports available on these studies, and, if so, how long are they and are they immediately available to my office?

I would like to sit down with you and discuss some of the questions I have raised in this letter. Ideally, I would like to meet with you on these matters within the next two weeks because I would like to be able to make my recommendation to Chairman Roncalio on or before June 1.

With best personal regards, I am
Sincerely,

MAX BAUCUS.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOREST SERVICE,
Washington, D.C., June 13, 1977.
Hon. MAX BAUCUS,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. BAUCUS: This letter will supplement our acknowledgment of June 1 to your letter of inquiry seeking information about timber data and roadless areas in Montana. The following information is provided for your review.

We believe the enclosed Tables 1 through 4 will provide you with the specific timber resource data you requested. Also enclosed is a Supplemental Statement for all areas in S. 393. This provides a short summary for each area including data for commercial forest lands and potential annual yield.

You have asked us to furnish an estimation of harvest level increases which might be achieved through increased intensive forest management in Montana. We do not have information which is specific for Montana, but we have the following estimates for the Northern Region as a whole. By 1980, the annual potential yield (maximum allowable harvest) can be increased from 1.7 billion to 1.8 billion board feet and the annual sell program increased from 1.1 billion to 1.8 billion board feet. This is based on: (1) the assumption that the commercial forest land base will not be decreased more than 1.9 million acres or below 16.8 million acres, (2) that biological and economic problems involved in operating in marginal areas can be overcome, and (3) investments in funding and manpower for intensive practices are available in a timely fashion now, and in the future.

In 1980, timber management funding in the amount of approximately $65.6 million will be required to maintain the 1.1 billion board feet program level. In order to achieve a program offering the full potential yield (maximum allowable harvest) level of 1.8 billion board feet, timber management funding would need to be increased approximately $14.4 million to a level of about $80 million.

You inquired about the status of wilderness studies for areas in H.R. 3454 and S. 393—11 areas in total. Of the 11 areas, only two involve Forest Service designated wilderness study areas. In 1973, we designated the Hilgard Wilderness Study Area (70,000 acres) and the Hyalite Wilderness Study Area (23,300 acres). S. 393 would designate for wilderness study 289,000 acres in the Taylor-Hilgard area and 151,000 acres in the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn area.

Land management planning now underway proposes to designate a 93,400-acre West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area (vs. 151,000 acres in S. 393), and a 10,850-acre wilderness study area (vs. the 94,000 acre Sapphire area in S. 393). Land management planning has been completed for the Mt. Henry, Ten Lakes, McGregor-Thompson, and Bluejoint areas and decisions made heretofore to manage them for other than wilderness purposes. Planning is incomplete for the Welcome Creek, Taylor-Hilgard and Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn areas, and has not been started for the Big Snowies and Middle Fork Judith areas.

Studies have not been started for the two designated wilderness study areas. Other than the H.R. 3454 and S. 393 areas, Montana has 25 wilderness study areas designated by the Forest Service and two designated by the Congress—the Great Bear and the Elkhorn. First priority for completion is mandated by these congressional studies.

Generally speaking, a wilderness study takes 2-3 years and costs about $3 to $4 per acre. We also request a minerals study from the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines, both U.S. Department of the Interior agencies. Their field work and report preparation usually takes 2-3 years. We do not have cost data for their work. The size of the area, amount of resource information available, degree of public involvement, and other factors determine the length and cost of the wilderness studies. The public is invited to participate in the study. They have an opportunity to present their views on a proposal at a public hearing and to comment on the environmental statements. We intend to devise means to streamline the wilderness study process making it less costly in funds and time.

The twelfth area is the proposed Beartooth Wilderness. The Wilderness Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-577) directed that all primitive areas be studied and reported on within ten years. The Absaroka (64,000 acres) and the Beartooth (230,000 acres) primitive areas were reviewed concurrently. Numerous public meetings were held between May 1969 and the public hearing in March 1974. The proposed Beartooth Wilderness ([illegible] acres) was forwarded by the President to the Congress in December 1974. A copy of the proposal and the final environmental statement is enclosed for your use. The Beartooth Wilderness proposal will be reexamined in light of the President's recent environmental message.

We will be pleased to answer any questions you may have after review of this data. Your interest in the administration of the National Forests is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

JOHN R. MCGUIRE,
Chief.

I have compiled data regarding the proposed wilderness study areas in Montana. Looking at the various proposals comprehensively, I hope the Congress will be better able to assess the effect of the legislation upon the National Wilderness System and other public land uses.

	Forests									Total
	Kootenai	Flathead	Beaverhead	Bitterroot	Custer	Helena	Deerlodge	Lolo	Gallatin	
Average cut, last 5 yr	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	17.7	[illegible]
High year	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Low year	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Latest year	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Industry trend	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Potential yield	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Potential yield in roaded areas only	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Classification	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Relief available if roadless areas reserved	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Other considerations	[illegible]							[illegible]		

[1] Declining.

[2] Stable.

[3] Downward.

[4] Potential yield exceeds industrial needs. Some marginal lands may be needed, costs may be high.

[5] Potential yield in roaded areas only is smaller than industrial use. Thus, if all roadless areas were reserved, industry would have to be reduced.

[6] Potential yield exceeds industrial consumption. No marginal lands would need to be used.

[7] None necessary.

[8] [illegible] could be maintained.

[9] Added pressure on roaded areas is possibility.

TABLE I.—MONTANA NATIONAL FORESTS

[In millions of board feet]

Forest	Programed allowable harvest						Projected programed harvest [1]				
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Beaverhead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bitterroot	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Custer	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deerlodge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Flathead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gallatin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Helena	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kootenai	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lewis and Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lolo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Totals	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[1] Furnished by region—midpoint of range.

TABLE II.—MONTANA NATIONAL FORESTS

[In millions of board feet]

Forest	Potential yield (allowable cut)—combined					Projected potential yield—combined [2]					
	1972	1973	1974	1975 [1]	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Beaverhead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bitterroot	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Custer	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deerlodge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Flathead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gallatin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Helena	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kootenai	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lewis and Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lolo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	704	704

[1] Old allowable cuts recast to include marginal component; allowable cut term expanded to potential yield total years 1975 to 1982.

[2] Furnished by region.

TABLE III.—MONTANA NATIONAL FORESTS

[In millions of board feet]

Forest	Offered for sale					Volume purchased					Volume actually cut				
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Beaverhead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bitterroot	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Custer	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deerlodge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Flathead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gallatin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Helena	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kootenai	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lewis and Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lolo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Totals	440	566	512	[illegible]	511	[illegible]	450	450	525	440	662	567	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TABLE IV.—COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND AND ESTIMATED POTENTIAL YIELD IN NONSELECTED ROADLESS AREAS AND UNDEVELOPED AREAS INCLUDED IN THE CALCULATED POTENTIAL YIELD

Forest	Total CFL (thousand acres)	CFL in nonselected roadless areas (thousand acres)	Total potential yield (million board feet)	Estimated potential yield from nonselected roadless areas (million board feet)
Beaverhead	935.5	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bitterroot	625.4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Custer	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deerlodge	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Flathead	971.4	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gallatin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Helena	387.7	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kootenai	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lewis and Clark	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lolo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Total	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Note: Furnished by region—phone request.

Wilderness statistics

NATIONAL

	Acres
Total wilderness now in system	14,903,090

MONTANA

Total wilderness now classified in Montana	1,006,908
Anaconda Pintlar	159,086
Bob Marshall	950,000
Cabinet Mountains	94,272
Gates-of-the-Mountains	28,562
Mission Mountains	73,900
Scapegoat	240,000
Selway-Bitterroot (Montana only)	419,040
Total wilderness study areas in Montana	1,935,370
Selected during RARE	1,868,024
Great Bear	283,000
Elkhorn	77,348
Wilderness study legislation in 95th Congress	2,118,803
H.R. 3454: Endangered American Wilderness Act	180,900
Mount Henry	23,000
Thompson-McGregor	80,000
Welcome Creek	28,000
S. 393: Montana Wilderness Study Act	973,000
Mount Henry	22,000
West Pioneers	151,000
Taylor-Hilgard	289,000
Bluejoint	61,000
Sapphire	94,000
Ten Lakes	34,000
Middle Fork Judith	81,000
Big Snowies	91,000
Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn	151,000
H.R. 1607: Spanish Peaks Study Area	118,182
S. 1671: Beartooth Study Area	613,800

The following questions and answers might also shed some light on my course of action regarding wilderness.

BAUCUS. I would like to talk about one of the most important issues facing Western Montana—what land should be classified as wilderness. As we all know there are some areas in Western Montana that are presently included in the national wilderness system. In Congress today, there are two legislative proposals to study other Montana areas for possible inclusion in the wilderness system.

The first proposal, introduced by Congressman Morris Udall, is called the American Endangered Wilderness Bill. The second proposal, S. 393, was introduced by our senior Senator Lee Metcalf. S. 393 proposes studies for nine areas in Montana.

QUESTION. Well let's start with a general overview of the present situation. How much land is involved in all the various wilderness proposals?

Baucus. Montana has about 16.7 million acres in national forests. Of that total, 3 million acres are designated wilderness. Under study are the Elkhorn, Great Bear and selected roadless areas also totalling about 3 million acres. S. 393 proposes for study nearly 1 million more acres. Finally, H.R. 3454 recommends in the neighborhood of about 100,000 acres for wilderness study in Montana.

Question. That sounds like a lot of land. I am curious as to what kind of impact the wilderness bills will have on forestry in Montana.

Baucus. That question goes to the heart of the dilemma that we face in Western Montana. How much of our land base can be designated as wilderness before our state's economy and wood products industry is adversely affected? We shouldn't forget that in Western Montana about 51 percent of our economy is dependent either directly or indirectly on the forest products industry.

The wilderness issue, in my judgment, depends almost entirely on how well we manage our forests. Currently our timber base is declining; production is declining as well. If we are to maintain current levels of production on existing roaded lands we must increase federal support for management of those lands.

Question. With the problems of low production plus the incentives to try to keep our wilderness areas, what can be done to solve the problems of decreased production?

Baucus. Nearly every Montanan wants to maintain our high quality of life. We want to keep our mountains majestic and our streams clean. At the same time, we all want a good solid economic base. So the question is, "To what degree can we have both?" In order to achieve both, we must increase as much as possible federal support to forest management in Montana. This support should be directed toward our productive forests. That is, we should not place dollars in those areas in Montana which are low-productive sites or low yield. Instead, we should direct increased timber management budgets on high-productive sites.

This year, with my active support, the House Appropriations Committee increased the funding levels for timber management. The House increased the level up from 75 to 85 percent of full funding. This is $565 million above last year's Forest Service budget. For timber management alone, we increased Region 1's budget by more than $19.5 million—about half of which (or nearly $10 million) would go to Montana's forests. This means that if we maintain the increased funding level—and I have assurances that we will—we'll be able to increase the Region's allowable harvest by about 200 million board feet by 1980. We should be able to increase sales in Montana in the neighborhood of about 150 million board feet.

So the point is, if we increase the intensity with which we manage our forests, we can actually increase timber yields and production without continuing to intrude on existing roadless areas. In other words, it is my hope, grounded upon some convincing evidence, that we will be able to save much of the wilderness areas in western Montana we value so highly.

Question. What did you do in arriving at the decisions you made regarding the wilderness study areas?

Baucus. Well, I've devoted considerable time studying the subject. In the first place, I conducted a lot of town meetings in western Montana—Plains, Thompson Falls, Dillon, Missoula, Hamilton, Helena, Bozeman—areas that are all close to potential wilderness study areas. Obviously, questions regarding wilderness came up and that gave me a good chance to talk to people and get their views of whether they support or oppose more wilderness lands. Second, I travelled to most of the study areas myself. This gave me a better feel for each. Third, I talked with Forest Service officials. I also spoke with environmentalists to get their views, and I've spoken with timber industry people. In addition, I spoke with people who represent snowmobilers, off-road vehicle users, farmers and ranchers who own stock that now graze on potential wilderness.

Question. Well, getting back to the two bills, can you tell us a little about the Congressional situation?

Baucus. Right now, we're really talking about two major bills. The first is the American Endangered Wilderness bill introduced by Congressman Udall which includes three areas in Western Montana—Welcome Creek outside of Missoula, McGregor-Thompson between Thompson Falls and Kalispell, and Mt. Henry near Libby. That bill is now before the Public Lands Subcommittee in the House.

The second bill, S. 393 sponsored by Senator Metcalf, includes nine potential study areas. That bill passed the Senate and is now spending in the House. The House will probably be considering S. 393 within the next month.

Question. On both of these bills—do they call for studies or do they designate areas as wilderness?

Baucus. Both are study bills. Neither would allocate one acre of wilderness. Since we don't have enough information to know whether the areas are in fact wilderness, they should be studied. Although the Carter Administration recommended instant wilderness classification for the three areas in Congressman Udall's bill (i.e., Mt. Henry, Welcome Creek and McGregor-Thompson), I don't think we know enough yet about the wilderness qualities of these areas or about the economic impacts that withholding these areas from development would have on adjacent communities.

Question. So you are saying that both bills call for study, but the Administration wants to make instant wilderness out of the areas in the Endangered bill?

Baucus. That's right.

Question. I understand that you are going to propose a major revision in Senator Metcalf's S. 393. Can you tell us what that revision would do?

Baucus. That bill calls for a five year study period. At the end of that period, the Forest Service has two more years to make its recommendations to the Congress. Thus, there is as long as a seven year period before Congress will get an opportunity to consider whether additional wilderness should be designated. In my judgment, that is just too long. Some of these areas have been partially studied. I feel it makes sense to reduce the study period. My amendment would shorten it from seven to three years.

Question. During the study period, what happens to the wilderness areas themselves?

Baucus. This has been one question that has bothered me for some time. During previous studies, no uses were permitted. Thus, snowmobilers were not permitted to snowmobile during the study period; ranchers were given a hard time grazing cattle; and off-road vehicle users weren't allowed to drive in these areas.

I don't think we want to damage the land to the point that it can not longer be called wilderness. On the other hand, it seems to me that the Forest Service, during a study period, should permit, as many interim uses as possible, provided they don't jeopardize the area's wilderness potential.

Question. What are your recommendations going to be to the Committee? Can we review the two different bills starting out with the Endangered bill first and then going on to S. 393 and can you then tell us what you are going to recommend to the Committee?

Baucus. In the first place, I disagree with the Carter Administration's proposal that McGregor-Thompson be designated instant wilderness. In fact I believe that the Forest Service has done a very good job in developing its land management plan in the McGregor-Thompson area. Because there is so much private holdings in McGregor-Thompson, there would be serious problems managing the area as wilderness.

Second, in the American Endangered Bill I also feel that Welcome Creek should not be included. It should not be designated as instant wilderness. I think that can be included in the Forest Service Rare II program (i.e. the Forest Service's recently announced program which will re-evaluate all the roadless areas during a fifteen month period). They are going to do that right now and I think that is the proper time for the Forest Service to look at Welcome Creek under Rare II.

The third area in the Endangered bill is Mt. Henry. I think that Mt. Henry should be deleted from this bill, but retained in S. 393.

Question. Let's go then to S. 393. It has not only Mt. Henry but eight other Montana areas as well. What is your recommendation for the areas in S. 393?

Baucus. We can start with the Sapphire proposed study. That includes about 94,000 acres in the Deer Lodge and Beaverhead National Forests. I recommend that the Sapphire be included for wilderness study. I think that the Forest Service during its inventory of the Sapphires looked at units which were much too small. They divided up the area into a number of little parcels and really didn't give the wilderness potential much of a chance. I think, therefore, that the Forest Service should restudy the area and make its recommendation within the three year period as to whether or not it should be designated as wilderness.

Question. What about the Big Snowies area?

Baucus. Big Snowies and the Middle Fork of the Judith are actually located pretty close together. Both are located in the Lewis and Clark Forest in the Eastern District of Montana. The town closest to the areas is Lewistown.

The Big Snowies area totals about 91,000 acres in the Lewis and Clark forest. I recommend that it be included for wilderness study. Its impact on timber potential would be minimal. Also, it is located in an area where there is no other wilderness nearby. I think we should at least study it to see if it should be included.

The second area, the Middle Fork of the Judith, totals about 81,000 acres. I think it should also be studied as wilderness study. Like the Big Snowies area, the timber impact in the Middle Fork of the Judith would be relatively insignificant during the study period.

In both of these areas, I think it is imperative that the Forest Service draft reasonable regulations so that interim uses can be continued so long as the potential wilderness characteristics are not jeopardized. I mention that, with particular emphasis on the Judith area, because I understand there are nearly 70 miles of jeep and other improved roads.

Question. Okay, let's go on to the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn. What should we do with that area?

Baucus. Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn includes 151,000 acres in the Gallatin National Forest. The area is south of Bozeman down the southern portion of Western Montana. I think the wilderness potential there is significant. It should be studied. Also, the timber impact there would be minimal.

Question. What about the Taylor-Hilgard area?

Baucus. Taylor-Hilgard is one of the more unique areas in Western Montana. It is about 289,000 acres in the Beaverhead and Gallatin National Forests. It is near Yellowstone National Park and has very significant wildlife characteristics in the area.

I think it should be studied. We need more information to see whether it should be included in the National Wilderness System.

Question. What about the Ten Lakes area?

Baucus. The Ten Lakes is in the Kootenai National Forest and totals about 34,000 acres, and the timber impact really in the area is not significant. There are some planned sales. The real question there is not so much what the boundaries should be, but whether it should be scenic or wilderness. The area is near Glacier National Park and there are significant wildlife values there. I think we need a few more facts, so I recommend that it be included for wilderness study.

Question. What about the Bluejoint area?

Baucus. The Bluejoint is about 61,000 acres. It's in the Bitterroot National Forest, the area south of the southern end of Ravalli County, down near Darby. I think it should be studied. There are no significant timber sales planned during this study period, and I think it should be studied.

Question. Getting down to the last area in the Metcalf bill, what do you think about the West Pioneers area?

Baucus. The West Pioneer study area is probably one of the most difficult ones on which to make a decision. The area includes about 151,000 acres in the Beaverhead National Forest. I have flown over and walked through the area. I looked at it fairly extensively.

The Forest Service recently announced its plan which sets aside about 90,000 acres as proposed wilderness. Thus, the additional acreage would be around 60,000 under S. 393.

Beaverhead County has a very delicate economy. It is very dependent upon its livestock industry, and the town of Dillon has a sawmill which is very dependent upon a diminishing supply of timber.

The question in my mind is whether the inclusion of the West Pioneers into a study and perhaps into the wilderness system would have an adverse effect on Beaverhead's economy. All that being said, my judgment is that we should include the West Pioneers into a study; conduct the study as quickly as possible; and tell the Forest Service to pay particular attention to the economic aspects of the area.

Question. What are your recommendations going to mean to the forest products industry?

Baucus. The essential question is the degree to which these recommendations will affect the forest products industry. One might think that it will have an adverse effect on the industry because during the study period (although it should be only three years) we would be taking a significant amount of acreage away from the timber land base. There are several points to keep in mind. In the first place, even though the acreage is in the neighborhood of 900,000 acres in the proposed study areas, most of it is in very low timber producing areas. Although estimates vary, it is clear that there is very little commercial forest land in these areas.

So the economic effect is probably not going to be very great at all. To make doubly sure that the effect on the timber industry is not significant during the study period, we are adding additional federal funds to national forest management, particularly in Montana. As I mentioned before, the Forest Service tells me that according to its figures, with the additional funds Congress is providing this year, we will be able not only to maintain, but probably increase the allowable harvest and the annual sales in Western Montana, even if about 900,000 acres of land are not logged during the study period.

Question. Let's get in a little bit on the impact of what this will mean for Montana wilderness.

Baucus. Well, I think it is hard to say because this is a study bill. It is not really a bill to designate lands as wilderness. It will give Western Montanans a chance—probably for the last time in our state's history—to look at a significant acreage and decide whether it should be included into the American Wilderness System for ourselves, for the future, and for our children and grandchildren. Our land base is rapidly diminishing, and with each passing year, there are more and more intrusions into roadless areas—large parts of which are by and large wilderness. So what we are doing, during this study period of three years, is deciding, probably for the last time in Western Montana, whether these acres should be included in a wilderness system and therefore, whether they will be protected for ourselves and for our future.

July 6, 1977

Senator Lee Metcalf
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Metcalf,

Thank you very much for introducing S. 1671 and for your strong support of the Beartooth-Absaroka Wilderness. I am writing to tell you that you have my full support on the bill and I pray for its early passage. This has been a long time coming.

Although I am presently working in Washington, I continue to vote in Montana and I have strong family ties there. My Grandfather, Bud Hart, held the first mineral claims on Goose Lake and I grew up fishing and hiking in the Beartooths. I have backpacked nearly every one of its major drainages. At one time I did research for a possible book on the area and have an extensive collection of photographs of the area. I am at your disposal to be of any help I can be in supporting the passage of S. 1671.

I hope that you will support scheduling a field hearing in Montana this summer, if possible, so that the final legislation might have a chance of passage yet this year.

I am a little baffled by the reluctance of the rest of the Montana delegation to commit themselves to this legislation as strongly as you have--especially in light of the overwhelming support that the

ATTACHMENT #4

full wilderness proposal received at the hearings in Montana in 1974. I testified at those hearings and was gratified to see that the support for a full wilderness proposal was nearly unanimous.

If I can be of any service to you or to the Montana delegation in getting this legislation passed, please do not hesitate to call on me. Thank you again, very much, for giving this legislation such a high priority on your list.

Sincerely,

G. Kimball Hart

G. Kimball Hart

Work: U.S. News and World Report
Book Division - 333-7400

Home: Box 211-B Route 2
The Plains, Virginia 22171
703-253-5826

cc: John Melcher
Max Baucus
Ron Marlenee

Sub Comm.

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D. MICHAEL HARVEY, CHIEF COUNSEL
W. O. CRAFT, JR., MINORITY COUNSEL

United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

13 July 1977

Mr. G. Kimball Hart
Route 2 - Box 211-B
The Plains, Virginia 22171

Dear Mr. Hart:

Thanks for your letter of enthusiastic support for S. 1671, my bill to designate an Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area.

Enclosed is a copy of my introductory remarks on S. 1671. Governor Thomas Judge has declared his support for the bill, as has Congressman Baucus. I have reason to believe that Congressman Marlenee looks with favor on the measure, but I would not attempt to speak for him on the matter.

I will keep in mind your generous offer to be of assistance. I am currently looking at possible hearing dates for Montana before the August Congressional recess but the Senate schedule is very tight. I agree that early action is desirable. Given the widespread support for protection of the Absaroka-Beartooth area, the problem appears to be less one of generating additional support than of finding the time to do what is necessary.

I appreciate hearing from you on this important matter.

Best wishes.

Very truly yours,

Lee Metcalf

Enclosure

ATTACHMENT #5

WILDERNESS
HEARING
ALERT

ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS
MONTANA and WYOMING

JOINT SENATE-HOUSE FIELD HEARING IN BILLINGS AUGUST 10 (1977) BEGINNING ABOUT 9:30 A.M. IN ROOM 148 OF THE EASTERN MONTANA COLLEGE LIBRARY

Located 75 miles southwest of Billings, in southcentral Montana and northwestern Wyoming, the Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive Areas and contiguous wild lands encompass about 960,000 acres of wild mountain country on the Gallatin and Custer National Forests in Montana and the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming. The southwestern portion joins the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park.

The Beartooth portion supports a high elevation environment of unusual extent, with our country's largest expanse of high plateau land above 10,000 feet elevation. The Absaroka presents a broader, more gentle topography resulting from more advanced erosion of the same base uplift, with more forested slopes and valleys, providing greater wildlife habitat. The qualities of each complement those of the other, and combined they would constitute one of the finest wildernesses of our nation. The Absaroka-Beartooth provides irreplaceable habitat for many species of wildlife that require an essentially wilderness environment. Among them are the endangered northern Rocky Mountain wolf, the threatened grizzly bear, and elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat, mountain lion, pine marten, wolverine, bald and golden eagles, and cuttroat trout. The region offers the ultimate in recreational opportunities. It supports a large guiding and outfitting industry, which adds to the economy of the area. It is particularly attractive to visitors because of its accessibility from all sides.

On June 10, 1977 Senator Lee Metcalf introduced S.1671 which would designate the Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive Areas along with contiguous wildlands as a single 913,500 acre wilderness area. Because of objections from Senator Clifford Hansen of Wyoming he omitted the 46,000 acre Wyoming High Lakes--a contiguous portion of the Beartooth Plateau in Montana.

The area is remarkably free of significant resource conflicts and controversy given its vast size. The boundary has been carefully drawn to minimize good timber-growing land, mineralized areas and private land. The owners of much of the small amount of private land within the boundary strongly support wilderness and would gladly convey their property to the Forest Service if assured that the land will be given wilderness protection.

The CENTRAL ISSUE in designation of the Absaroka-Beartooth is the unification of the two Primitive Areas into a single great wilderness by including the Slough Creek "corridor". In 1976 the Montana counties of Park and Sweetgrass filed suit against the United States over an alledged county road right-of-way through the "corridor". In the interest of fair play Senator Metcalf included an amendment in S.1671 which leaves the matter of right-of-way jurisdiction to the courts. This is a calculated risk since the counties are unlikely to win the lawsuit.

LETTERS are needed NOW to convince Congress to swiftly approve a unified Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness THIS YEAR. Needless delay of S.1671 could well turn up unforseen political problems during the 1978 election year.

In your letter and/or hearing testimony you may wish to emphasize the following points:

(1) Urge the inclusion of the entire Slough Creek "corridor" as contained in S.1671 to insure unification of the Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive Areas into a single great wilderness. Size is a quality dependent largely on unification which will provide dimension and depth available in few other units of our National Wilderness System.

(2) Urge inclusion of the Wyoming High Lakes for a total Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness of 960,000 acres. By extending the wilderness boundary southward toward the Beartooth Highway in Wyoming and easily definable boundary can be established on topographic

ATTACHMENT #6

features without exposing a major unit of outstanding wilderness to development.

(3) Urge retention of all qualified lands contiguous to the two Primitive Areas: specifically, the 253,000 acre North Absaroka Range which received a perfect wilderness quality score of 200 from the Forest Service, the 31,000 acre Cedar-Bassett area on the southwestern boundary recently proposed for logging by the Forest Service, and the spectacular Goose Lake Basin near Cooke City which has been badly abused by four-wheel drive vehicles.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

If you wish to testify at the unprecedented joint Senate-House hearing on S.1671 AUGUST 10 in Billings phone Sally Jordan at Senator Metcalf's Billings office (259-5966) IMMEDIATELY and ask to be put on the witness list.

If you cannot testify at the hearing WRITE to your Congressman (Rep. Max Baucus in the western Montana district and Rep. Ron Marlenee in the eastern Montana district) BEFORE AUGUST 20 in support of S.1671 and ask that he forward your letter to Rep. Teno Roncalio, Chairman of the House Public Lands Subcommittee, for inclusion in the OFFICIAL HEARING RECORD. Copies of your letter should also be sent to Senators Lee Metcalf and John Melcher. Thusfar, Governor Thomas Judge, Senator Metcalf and Rep. Baucus have indicated support for a large, unified Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. Only the positions of Senator Melcher and Rep. Marlenee remain uncertain.

House members may be reached at House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.
Senators at: Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

REMEMBER: YOUR LETTER SHOULD BE SENT BY AUGUST 20 TO INSURE ITS INCLUSION IN THE OFFICIAL HEARING RECORD

Kim -
this announces the good news
of a joint House-Senate
hearing. Your continued help
with this is very much
appreciated. Thanks,
Bill

August 19, 1977

Senator Lee Metcalf
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Metcalf,

Thank you for holding hearings on S.1671 in Montana this summer. I am sorry that business commitments made it impossible for me to attend those hearings but I would like to take the opportunity to convey to you at this time thoughts that I would have expressed at the hearing. I ask that you please accept these comments as part of the official hearing record.

Testimony of G. Kimball Hart

Beartooth-Absaroka Wilderness Hearings (S.1671)

August 19, 1977

My family has had a long history in the Beartooth mountains of Montana. My great-grandfather homesteaded at the foot of the Beartooths near Red Lodge and my grandfather held the first mining claims at Goose Lake. I myself have hiked, back-packed, and horse-packed nearly every major drainage in the Beartooths including some without trails. I have also done considerable research on the area, its history, and its geography. I retain my residence in Montana and vote there.

ATTACHMENT #7

I expect that there will be comment enough at the hearing about the suitability of the Beartooth-Absarokas for inclusion in the National Wilderness System. I cannot believe that anyone at all familiar with the area could quarrel with this. The fact that a majority of the area has been maintained by the U.S. Forest Service as a Primitive Area for many years speaks for itself. I will therefore restrict my comments to two controversial portions of S.1671--the proposed Slough Creek Corridor and the proposed inclusion of Goose Lake within the boundries of the Wilderness Area.

I am totally opposed to the possibility of the Slough Creek Corridor (from Coote City to Big Timber via the Boulder river drainage). Although I appreciate Senator Metcalf's sense of fair play in writing S. 1671 to avoid any pre-emption of pending litigation on the matter, I feel that allowing even the potential of the corridor is totally opposed to the sense of the Wilderness Act itself. Natural geography has retained the Beartooth-Absaroka area as an integral unit where man has been principally a visitor--with the exception of the Beartooth Highway and the town of Cooke City. I see no reason to artificially bisect this area with a road and thereby reduce the wilderness value of the area on both sides of the highway. I agree with the preliminary findings of the Forest Service that it is basically absurd to find that the counties involved should consider they have any jurisdiction on land over which a surveyor walked a hundred years ago. What possible advantages could there be to building such a road?

The road itself would be prohibitively expensive to build in the first place. It is a standing joke in Cooke City these days that more is spent each year improving a few miles of road than it cost to build the entire

Cooke City Highway. I have not myself made an estimate of the cost of such a building project but I hope that at some point it might be a matter which the committee will investigate before they consider it essential to allow at least the possibility that a road be built.

If the road is proposed as a scenic highway, I would respond that one exists already from Red Lodge to Cooke City that mofe than meets any tourists expectations. Why must another be built in the same area?

If the road is porposed as an all-weather road, I would argue that such a road would be far too expensive to maintain. It is not judged financially acceptable to keep the Beartooth Highway free of snow at this time. Why would it make sense to keep a similar road open down the Boulder?

Finally, I would commend the Committee to look at the most potentially devastating pollution which such a rood could bring to the heart of a Wilderness. I am not suggesting that it would be auto emissions of toxic gasses, though that would be bad enough. It is NOISE pollution. In the still alpine environment, a truck lumbering up a steep grade or a blasting auto horn can be heard for miles. Although proponents of the road claim that it is only a ribbon of pavement, I would propose that in fact the noise of the road could spreads its pollution for many miles on either side of the proposed corridor.

For all of these reasons, I would propose that the Committee reconsider the portion of S1671 which defers to the decisions of the court concerning the outcome of the proposed Slough Creek Corridor. I would propose that this Wilderness legislation truely protect all of the proposed Wilderness Area by making such an unnecessary idea impossible by voting one contiguous area without the proposed clause.

As to the inclusion of Goose Lake into the Wilderness proposal, I am totally in favor. There is no doubt that there is some mineralisation around Goose Lake. My grandfather knew that many years ago. The point is, however, that it has never proven recoverable. On the assumption that one day someone *might* find a deposit of ore that is marketable in spite of the difficulties of working at this altitude and in such an unfriendly climate, this area has long been left out of most wilderness proposals. I am impressed that Senator Metcalf has chosen to include it in S.1671.

This area is truely fragile because of its high altitude and sparce vegetation. For those who have never been there, it lies above timberline and firewood must be carried in if a visitor wants an evening campfire. Already the area is scarred, partially from my grandfather's work and partially from the work of others. As I understand it, my grandfather worked principally by hand and, therefore, his impact was light. I hesitate to think what heavy equipment could do to such an area. Commercial development around the lake would be no less devastating in the fragile environment.

I realise that there is a jeep trail to Goose Lake and that this trail is used to help ferry visitors to Grasshopper Glacier--a major attraction in the area. I believe that S.1671 would allow this general practice to continue but jeeps would have to stop near the entrance to the lake rather than at the foot of the mountain where the glacier is located. Anyone physically able to make the climb from the present end of the road to the Glacier could easily make the addition walk around one side of the lake that would be required if the road were ended by the proposed legislation near the entrance of the lake. I am, therefore, in full support of protecting Goose Lake within the confines of the proposed legislation.

As I noted in a previous letter to Senator Metcalf, I am at the disposal of the Committee at any time, as is my collection of slides and research on the area, to be of any assistance I can in seeing that this rugged but precious area is preserved intact as it so justly deserves.

Sincerely,

G. Kimball Hart

Box 211-B Route 2
The Plains, Virginia. 22171
703-253-5826

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

7 September 1977

Mr. G. Kimball Hart
Route 2 - Box 211-B
The Plains, Virginia 22171

Dear Mr. Hart:

Your letter in favor of S. 1671, the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Act, arrived while Senator Metcalf is working out of his Montana office. It will be brought to his attention at the earliest opportunity.

The Senator will be pleased to receive your comments, and will forward them to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for inclusion in the official hearing record. He felt that the hearing in Billings on 10 August went very smoothly, auguring well for early Congressional handling of the bill. *

Very truly yours,

Peggy McLaughlin
Peggy McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant
to Senator Lee Metcalf

ATTACHMENT #8

STATEMENT OF MAX BAUCUS
BEFORE THE
HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE
ON
INDIAN AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC LANDS
ON THE
ABSAROKA - BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS ACT
H. R. 1907
OCTOBER 6, 1977

ON JUNE 23, 1977, I TRANSMITTED TO THIS SUBCOMMITTEE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT ON WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT WHICH CONTAINED MY ENDORSEMENT OF THE MONTANA WILDERNESS STUDY ACT (S. 393) AS WELL AS RECOMMENDATIONS ON OTHER MONTANA WILDERNESS PROPOSALS. AMONG THESE WAS MY PROPOSAL THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE MOVE QUICKLY TO FAVORABLY REPORT AN ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS BILL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I KNOW OF NO OTHER OPPORTUNITY WITHIN THE COTERMINOUS UNITED STATES TO DESIGNATE AN AREA SO VAST AND SPECTACULAR AND YET SO RELATIVELY FREE OF SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE CONFLICTS. THE BOUNDARY CONTAINED IN SENATOR METCALF'S S. 1671 AND MR. UDALL'S H. R. 1907 HAS BEEN CAREFULLY DRAWN TO EXCLUDE MOST OF THE ADJACENT PRODUCTIVE TIMBERLANDS AND MINERALIZED AREAS WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME, JOINING TOGETHER THE BEARTOOTH AND ABSAROKA-PRIMITIVE AREAS INTO A SINGLE GREAT WILDERNESS.

ATTACHMENT #9

Indeed, the case is powerful including the so-called "Slough Creek Corridor" in the wilderness thereby unifying the two Primitive Areas. Slough Creek provides important habitat for grizzly bear and other wildlife species dependent on a wild environment.

However, there remains a difference of legal opinion between Park County and Sweetgrass County and the United States as to who has jurisdiction over a claimed right-of-way through Slough Creek. In the interest of fair play Senator Metcalf has included a section in S. 1671 insuring that the dispute will be determined on its legal merits apart from the legislation. Nor does the bill affect the existing rights and remedies between the counties and the federal government. There is thus no reason to delay classification of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness pending resolution of the lawsuit since the bill and lawsuit may now proceed independently.

The approximate western half of the proposed Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness lies within the Congressional District which I represent. Included within both my District and the proposal is the magnificant North Absaroka Range which received the highest wilderness quality rating in the nation of all 1,449 national forest RARE I areas -- a perfect score of 200.

I am pleased to see that the Administration has recommended wilderness classification for the vast majority of the lands within S. 1671 and H. R. 1907 and I urge this Subcommittee to move favorably and quickly on at least the Montana portion of the proposed Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement.

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Legislation called threat to area near Goose Lake

MISSOULA (AP) — Environmentalists have complained that a provision in the proposed Montana wilderness bill could jeopardize an area around Goose Lake north of Cooke City.

Montana would gain more than 747,000 acres of wilderness under the congressional delegation's newly introduced measure.

But part of the bill would strip wilderness status from the high alpine area around Goose Lake, located nine miles from Cooke City on the southern border of Montana's Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Environmentalists say the Goose Lake provision is an appeasement to Copper King Mining Co., which operated turn-of-the-century mines near the lake and holds mining claims and deeds to some of the land.

"I'd call it (the provision) a travesty," said Bill Cunningham, Montana Wildlife Association's conservation director. "It's the subjugation of the broad public interest to a narrow special interest."

Sen. John Melcher, D-Mont., and Margaret Reeb, Copper King president, disagree. They say that, when the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness was created in 1978, the legislation was not supposed to include Goose Lake.

However, a mistake in the maps drawn for the new wilderness inadvertently included the area, Melcher said Friday.

"I certainly didn't know about it, and I don't think Lee Metcalf knew about it," Melcher said. "I don't think it was done deliberately. I think it was mistakenly done by some staffer."

Metcalf, the late Montana senator, was the author of the Absaroka-Beartooth bill.

Given the vast and sometimes unsurveyed acreage in many wilderness bills, Melcher said boundary mistakes such as the Goose Lake incident are not unusual.

Ms. Reeb urged removal of wilderness status for Goose Lake at a congressional hearing on the new wilderness bill in Great Falls a year ago. She described the area as an important domestic site for platinum, a mineral used for automobile catalytic converters and for the nation's strategic weapons.

In recent years, her company has explored for platinum around Goose Lake. Billings Gazette

Billings Gazette week of July 9, 1984

ATTACHMENT #10

July 13, 1984

Mr. Bill Cunningham
Montana Wilderness Society
Helena, Montana

Dear Bill:

I have just received a clipping from the Billings Gazette carrying an Associated Press story about the wilderness boundary around Goose Lake (Attachment #1). The point of the piece is that Senator Lee Metcalf just didn't know what he was doing when he drew the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness boundary south of Goose Lake.

I am reminded of the old Chinese proverb that "no man's memory is quite as good as a little faded ink." In that regard, I am forwarding several documents out of my files which clearly indicate that Senator Metcalf was well briefed on the issues and knew exactly what he was doing.

When Senator Metcalf introduced the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Bill (S.1671) on June 10, 1977, his remarks were made part of the Congressional Record for that day. Note that on page 2 of those remarks (Attachment #2) he clearly calls for the inclusion of Goose Lake and a narrow buffer zone south of the lake. Although this issue was to be controversial until the bill's final passage, there can be no doubt of the Senator's intention. I am surprised that Senator Melcher is not aware of the public record on this issue.

Following introduction of the Bill, public hearings were held in Montana on August 10, 1977. I could not attend the hearings but sent my testimony by letter for inclusion in the hearing record (Attachment #3). You will note that page 4 of this letter spells out my support for Senator Metcalf's position to include Goose Lake in the wilderness area. I have every reason to believe my comments were brought to the Senator's attention at this time as is indicated by the reply from his Administrative Assistant, Peggy McLaughlin (Attachment #4).

ATTACHMENT #11

Finally, I called on Senator Metcalf and Mr. Ted Roe on December 8, 1977, as the bill was being prepared for House mark-up. My purpose was principally to thank him for his long efforts in support of the bill. He was extremely cordial. We discussed the bill in general but focused on Goose Lake. He seemed to take great pleasure in hearing stories about my grandfather's exploits in the area. We discussed the issue of preserving the lake and the location of the boundary. He clearly supported his original position of putting the boundary south of the lake and said he hoped that position would survive the fight to come.

Bill, I hope you will do all you can to dispel this silly notion that the boundary around Goose Lake is an accident. There is no doubt what Senator Metcalf wanted, and that still goes for a lot of the rest of us. If I can be of any further help, please let me know. I think I would at least like to have one of the Montana papers set the record straight. Then, of course, we need to get on with stopping this latest move to set up the destruction of that which should remain wilderness.

Sincerely,

G. KIMBALL HART

GKH/mmz

cc: Harrison Fagg

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

REGARDING
STRIKING THE GOOSE LAKE DELETION
FROM THE
MONTANA WILDERNESS BILL
S. 2850

AMENDMENT
TO THE
STATEMENT BY
MR. G. KIMBALL HART

August 21, 1984

G. K. Hart 8/21/84

AMENDMENT TO TESTIMONY

Following my testimony before the subcommittee on August 9, 1984, several additional documents have come to my attention which I would like to make part of the hearing record.

First, I am enclosing copies of the full text of S.R. 95-624 and H.R. 95-927, as referred to in my previous testimony. The passages marked, again illustrate the extent to which the issue of the inclusion of Goose Lake in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness was discussed and negotiated prior to passage of the principal legislation in February 1978. Note that those drafting the final legislation did not accept the recommendation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to exclude 1,900 acres along with the Goose Lake Basin from the bill. Instead, they chose to exclude only 150 acres "to place the boundary on more identifiable terrain features and permit four-wheel-drive access to within one-fourth mile of the lake while still protecting the fragile lake basin." So precise a series of events only underline the care with which the boundaries around Goose Lake were drawn.

Second, I am enclosing for the record a copy of a recent press release (dated May 24, 1984) by ASARCO Inc. in which they announce submission to the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Department of State Lands a plan of operation for a mine near Noxon, Montana. I have noted the passage which states that this claim is "mostly located in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness area of the Kaniksu National Forest." This announcement clearly establishes the fact that mining in and near a Montana Wilderness is possible under existing legislation and government policy. I would also note that ASARCO's decision was made based on the profitability of another mine nearby (The Troy Mine). The point is that a major mining company has shown itself willing to proceed under existing legislation without seeking an exclusion of the area from the wilderness. I would also note the company's willingness to recognize wilderness values and to proceed with care and respect for these values.

Finally, I am enclosing for my portion of the hearing record a letter from the Conoco Minerals Department to Ms. Margaret Reeb which was originally submitted in the testimony of John Hotchkiss on August 9, 1984. A careful reading of the final paragraph of this letter (as marked) indicates a somewhat different interpretation than that suggested by Mr. Hotchkiss. Conoco is careful to point out that they would not be interested in the claims offered for sale "even without it being in the midst of a wilderness." This certainly calls into question the value of the claims owned by Copper King. Unfortunately, Conoco is not clear in stating whether their lack of interest is due to it being a "small mineral interest," or "part of the Goose Lake Area." They mention both.

G. K. Hart 8/21/84

The Conoco letter clearly calls into question not only the value of the Goose Lake Claims owned by Copper King but also statements by the other companies to whom the claims have been offered. Whether or not the claims have value, it appears that their location within the wilderness could be used as an easy excuse for not persuing the issue farther. In considering this, one should bear in mind that the last major offer for these claims (according to Mr. Hotchkiss' testimony) occurred in 1907.

Based on the additional information presented above, I would like to restate the major points of my original testimony:

- Goose Lake is Wilderness. There is no more clear public documentation for the inclusion of any segment of the wilderness system than that which exists for Goose Lake.
- There is no reason (and no new information suggesting a reason) to remove Goose Lake from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the Committee.

Calendar No. 572

95TH CONGRESS } SENATE { REPORT
2d Session } { No. 95–624

ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS

JANUARY 31, (legislative day, JANUARY 30), 1978.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. ABOUREZK, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1671]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 1671) to designate the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Custer and Gallatin National Forests, in the State of Montana, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

1. On page 1, lines 7 and 8, strike "date June 1977," and insert in lieu thereof "dated January 1978,".
2. On page 2, line 2, strike "thirteen thousand five hundred" and insert in lieu thereof "and seven thousand two hundred".

PURPOSE

S. 1671, as amended, would designate approximately 907,200 acres within the Custer and Gallatin National Forests in the State of Montana as wilderness.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, located in the Custer and Gallatin National Forests of southern Montana comprises a major part of the remaining wild country in the Absaroka Range and the Beartooth Plateau. The proposed wilderness is a land of jewel-like lakes, clear cold streams and picturesque waterfalls. It is an area of glaciated timbered valleys and rugged summits. Granite Peak, at 12,799 feet in elevation on the Beartooth Plateau, is the highest point in Montana. The entire roadless tract is a major quality watershed for the Yellowstone River, one of America's finest blue-ribbon trout streams. With steep slopes and unstable soils, much of the area is easily disturbed by the works of man and is slow to heal.

Attachment #12

Several years ago, the Forest Service identified the Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive Areas lying north and east of Yellowstone National Park. These two areas totaled some 64,000 and 230,000 acres respectively. After holding public hearings in 1974, the Forest Service formally proposed that the areas be unified and expanded into an Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Area of 542,000 acres. S. 1671, as introduced, expanded the acreage to approximately 913,500, by including the North Absaroka Range and several smaller adjoining fringe areas.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 1671 was introduced by Senator Metcalf on June 10, 1977. On August 10, the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation, jointly with the House Interior Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands, held a field hearing on this proposal in Billings, Montana.

A hearing before the Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation was held in Washington on September 23, 1977. The administration has recommended that the legislation be enacted with several boundary modifications. Included in their proposal is the 41,800 High Lakes area in Wyoming whch is not included in S. 1671 as ordered reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on January 25, 1978, by unanimous vote of a quorum present recommends that the Senate pass S. 1671, if amended as described herein.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

1. The first amendment adopted by the committee would change the map reference date.

2. The second amendment agreed to by the committee would change the total acreage figure of the proposed wilderness to reflect five deletions from and one addition to S. 1671, as introduced.

The following deletions were made:

(*a*) *North Fork of Deep Creek* (50 acres).—This exclusion would allow construction of trailhead facilities to reduce public use conflicts on adjacent private lands.

(*b*) *Independence Peak* (800 acres).—This exclusion leaves out all of the patented mining claims in the Independence Peak area plus adjacent areas thus allowing high elevation off-road-vehicle access to the edge of the wilderness.

(*c*) *Goose Lake Drainage* (150 acres)—This exclusion designed to place the boundary on more identifiable terrain features allows four-wheel drive access to within one-fourth mile of the lake while still protecting the fragile lake basin.

(*d*) *Kersey Lake* (1,400 acres).—This exclusion leaves out a 160-acre subdivision on the north shore of Kersey Lake as well as adjacent lands suitable for snowmobiling.

(*e*) *Timberline-Basin Creek* (4,500 acres).—This exclusion follows the recommendation of the administration while still protecting the actual streambottoms of the West Fork of Rock Creek and the Lake Fork.

The following addition was made:

Woodbine Falls (600 acres).—This addition will protect the spectacular Woodbine Falls, the longest waterfall in the northern Rockies and one of only three major falls in the entire wilderness proposal.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

In accordance with subsection (a) of section 252 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, the committee notes that no additional budgetary expenditures would be involved should S. 1671, as amended, be enacted. S. 1671, as reported, does not authorize the expenditure of any funds.

Set forth below is the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office on S. 1671 as reported by the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, D.C., January 30, 1978.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 1671, a bill to designate the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Custer and Gallatin National Forests, in the State of Montana, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, January 25, 1978.

Based on this review, it appears that no additional cost to the Government would be incurred as a result of enactment of this bill. One possible cost could stem from the potential loss of timber receipts, since 6.5 million board feet of timber will be removed from the timber base of the Custer and Gallatin National Forests as a result of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness designation. However, no loss of receipts is likely to occur in the near future, for two reasons. First, no receipts are currently collected from timber sale on the land involved, nor are any expected in the next few years. Second, the timber harvest for the entire forest is not presently constrained by the estimated annual potential yield in this forest. Receipts would be lost if, at some future date, the rate of harvesting approaches the maximum yield. Under such circumstances, the total revenue loss would be about $300,000 (at 1978 timber values).

The area also includes approximately 275 mining claims and 2 parcels of privately-owned land. The Government is not obligated by law to purchase the claims or the private property, and there are no plans to make these purchases at the current time.

This estimate supersedes the previous CBO estimate, dated January 26, 1978.

Sincerely,

ALICE M. RIVLIN, *Director.*

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

S. 1671 is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and business. S. 1671 would designate 907,200 acres as wilderness in the State of Montana. No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy. Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 1671.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The pertinent legislative reports and communications received by the committee from the Department of Agriculture setting forth Executive agency recommendations relating to S. 1671 are set forth below:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., Oct. 28, 1977.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: As you requested, here is the report of the Department of Agriculture on S. 1671, a bill to designate the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Custer and Gallatin National Forests, in the State of Montana.

The Department of Agriculture recommends that S. 1671 be enacted with the boundary modifications suggested herein.

S. 1671 would designate as wilderness an area of approximately 913.500 acres in Montana to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in accordance with the provisions of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 890, 16 U.S.C. 1131).

S. 1671 encompasses an earlier administration recommendation for a Beartooth Wilderness of 542.437 acres transmitted to the Congress December 4, 1974. That proposal resulted from a Forest Service study of the Absaroka and the Beartooth Primitive Area in accordance with section 3(b) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 891, 16 U.S.C. 1132), and contained 289,400 acres in the two primitive areas plus 253,037 acres of contiguous lands. The western most portion of the wilderness proposal in S. 1671 also includes a large, roadless and undeveloped area for which detailed minerals and other resource data were not available when the primitive areas were studied. Since then, a geological and minerals survey conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey and U S. Bureau of Mines has been completed for the entire area proposed in S. 1671. Based on this and other resource information that has become available since 1974, we are in a position to fulfill President Carter's commitment, as stated in his May 23 Environmental Message, to recommend an enlarged proposal for a Beartooth Wilderness in Montana and Wyoming.

Specifically, we recommend a Beartooth Wilderness totaling 886,500 acres and consisting of most of the area proposed in S. 1671 plus the adjacent 41.800-acre High Lakes area in Wyoming. We believe certain areas should be deleted from the S. 1671 proposal in order to provide better access into the wilderness and to exclude private lands and nonwilderness uses. We also propose various boundary adjustments to better fit the boundary to the terrain. These deletions and adjustments amounting to about 68,787 acres, and the additions in Wyoming are described in the enclosed supplemental statement. A map will be provided to the committee.

We recommend the area be named the Beartooth Wilderness to avoid confusion with the nearby North Absaroka Wilderness which lies to the south in Wyoming.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. WHITE,
Acting Secretary.

Enclosure.

S. 1671, SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT SUMMARY OF USDA RECOMMENDATIONS

S. 1671—Proposed Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, 913,500 acres.
USDA—Proposed Beartooth Wilderness, 886,500 acres.

The Department of Agriculture strongly recommends the major portion of the area proposed in S. 1671 for wilderness designation. Resource values, with the exception of known or potential minerals, are small in relation to the wilderness values. A few trails constructed through solid rock or on steep hillsides by switchback, and some domestic sheep trailing damage are the only obvious marks of man. Most of the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and recreation. The rougher Beartooths require more physical stamina and mountaineering ability while the more gentle Absarokas require less mountaineering ability but are more interesting with respect to vegetative types and big game (grizzly, elk, deer, moose, sheep, and goats). Geologically, visitors can observe glacial activity and areas varying from Precambrian granite to those of volanic origin. The alpine Tundra, a system of miniature shrubs and forbs with some plants over 200 years old, is one of several unusual ecosystems in the Beartooths. Landscapes vary from the high peaks and high plateaus, high lakes and basins, to the deep canyons and the more gentle midslopes, each with its own peculiar plant and animal associations.

The Department of Agriculture recommends the following modifications in S. 1671:

DELETIONS

1. *Timberline-Basin Creek.*—(About 5,400 acres). This area is to the south of the West Fork of Rock Creek on the east side of the proposed wilderness. The area receives recreational use by people from recreation residences, youth camps, and organization complexes located adjacent to the roaded West Fork of Rock Creek. The increasing use of nearby lakes and other attractions in this area will soon limit the opportunities for solitude and other wilderness values.

2. *Lake Fork.*—(About 1,080 acres.) The lower 2.5 miles of this highly scenic drainage has a one-way high standard trail system. It

receives heavy use by hikers, trail cycles, and horse parties in summer and snowmobiles in winter. The area provides for recreational experience of a type not permitted in a wilderness.

3. *East Hellroaring Lakes.*—(About 3,600 acres.) The area contains five small lakes within 1 or 2 miles from a road providing access to Hellroaring Plateau. Horses and motorized vehicles will be precluded on designated hiker trails to the lakes. Present use, which will increase, is by families who wish to hike a short distance to fish and picnic at these high elevation lakes (10,000 feet). Most of the lakes in the Beartooth area will be within the proposed wilderness; these lakes will be available for use by nonwilderness visitors. The revised boundary takes advantage of the topography.

4. *Glacier Lake.*—This proposed exclusion of approximately 860 acres has a 12-foot concrete dam, about 150 feet long, used for irrigation purposes.

5. *Goose Lake.*—About 1,900 acres are recommended for exclusion. This area is part of the New World (Cooke City) mining district and has a high potential for gold, copper, and other mineral values. *

6. *Upper Boulder River.*—(About 10,800 acres.) This excludes private land in the Independence Park area and facilitates better distribution of wilderness users by enabling motorized access to the divide between Boulder Creek and Slough Creek. This will be an important access point for hikers and horsemen. This excluded area contains the Boulder (Independence) mining district with patented claims in the Independence Park area which have high potential for gold, silver, and lead.

These exclusions plus other minor boundary adjustments made to take advantage of the terrain (see map) total about 68,787 acres.

ADDITION

We recommend the addition to the area proposed in S. 1671, of a 41,800-acre tract in northern Wyoming known as the Wyoming High Lakes. This High Lakes country has outstanding wilderness qualities. Minerals, wildlife, and range values are relatively minor. The landscape is essentially the same as the Beartooth area in Montana; it does not stop at the State line. The Beartooth highway from Billings and Red Lodge to Yellowstone National Park passes along the southern edge of this High Lakes country and provides excellent access to it.

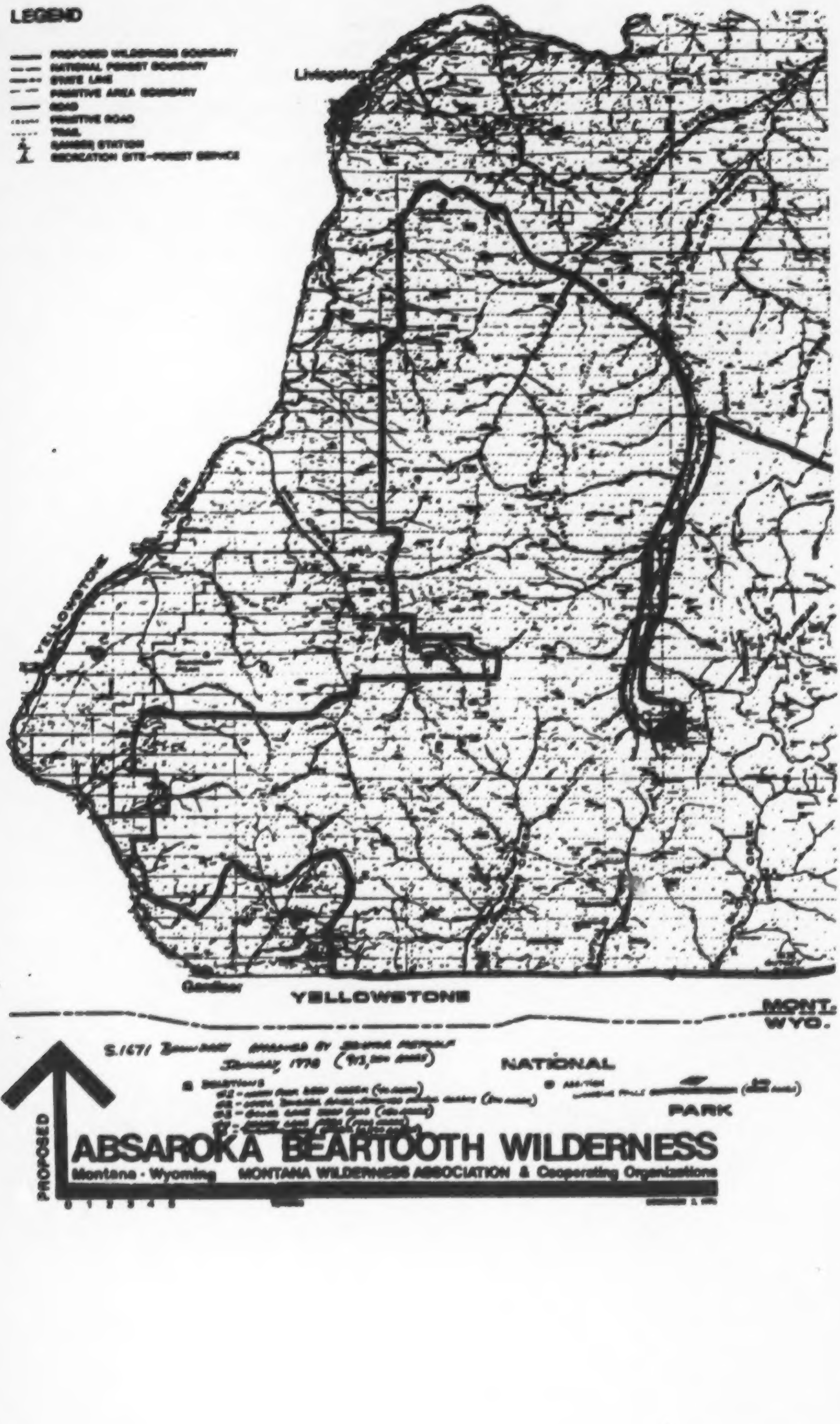
RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL VALUES

In some parts of the overall area, certain other nonwilderness values also may be important. In the Sixmile–Cedar–Bassett Creek drainages, for example, vegetative manipulation to improve browse and habitat may be necessary to accommodate the native elk herd and those that migrate from the Yellowstone National Park area. If the State of Montana considered such activity to be necessary and wished to exclude these drainages from the proposed wilderness, the Department of Agriculture would have no objection.

In the Lower Boulder River-Hawley areas, there are moderate potentials for discovery of uranium and molybdenum resources and a high potential for gold vein deposits. Under provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964, however, the location, development. and exploration for these minerals may continue until December 31, 1983. If a valid claim is located, mining would be allowed to continue after that (reference Wilderness Act of 1964, sec. 4(d)(3)). The surface values affected by such activities would be protected by Secretary's Regulations.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection (4) of rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no change in existing law are made by the bill S. 1671 as reported.


LEGEND
PROPOSED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY
NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
STATE LINE
PRIMITIVE AREA BOUNDARY
ROAD
PRIMITIVE ROAD
TRAIL
RANGER STATION
RECREATION SITE—FOREST SERVICE
Livingston
YELLOWSTONE
RIVER
Gardiner
YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL
PARK
MONT.
WYO.
S.1671 Boundary
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ABSAROKA BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS
Montana - Wyoming
MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION & Cooperating Organizations
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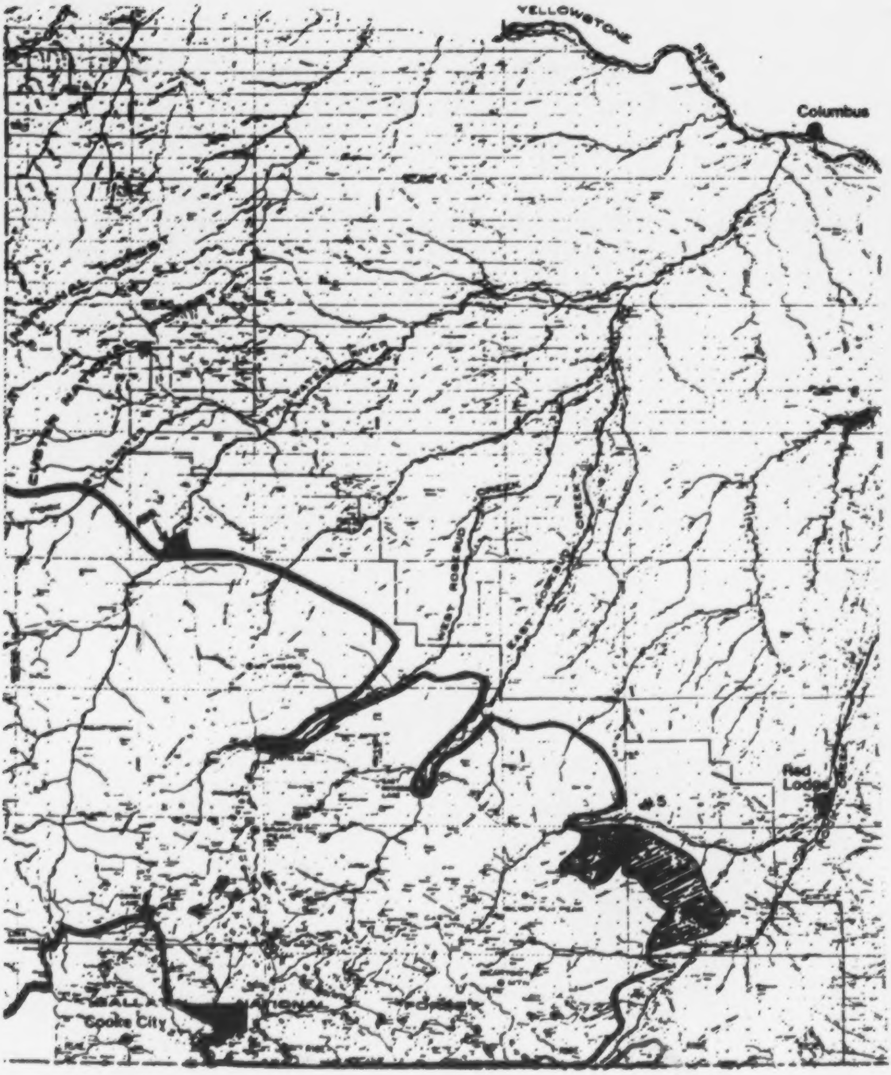
YELLOWSTONE
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Cooke City
NATIONAL
FOREST

95TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
2d Session } { No. 95–927

DESIGNATING THE ABSAROKA-BEARTOOTH WILDERNESS, CUSTER AND GALLATIN NATIONAL FORESTS, IN THE STATE OF MONTANA

MARCH 6, 1978.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. UDALL, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

[To accompany S. 1671]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1671) to designate the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Custer and Gallatin National Forests, in the State of Montana, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

S. 1671 would designate approximately 904,500 acres of the Cluster and Gallatin National Forests in Montana as the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The proposed Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is located in the Custer and Gallatin National Forests of southern Montana and is an integral part of the Yellowstone ecosystem. Over 30 miles along the southern boundary of the proposed wilderness border on Yellowstone National Park and, as such, the wilderness will provide protection for major watersheds flowing south into the park and important wildlife migration routes to and from the park. Inclusion of the 904,500-acre Absaroka-Beartooth area in the national wilderness preservation system, along with possible future wilderness designation for the nearby Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo and Taylor-Hilgard Wilderness Study Areas (which passed the 95th Congress in 1977—House Report 95–620) will go a long way toward insuring that the Yellowstone ecosystem is preserved in its natural state for future generations of

Americans to enjoy. The Yellowstone ecosystem contains some of the finest and most diverse wildlife habitat in North America; and has been described as the best sport fishing area in the entire continent.

The proposed Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness itself would consolidate the existing Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive Areas, and is a land of rugged valleys and peaks dotted by several hundred jewel-like lakes. The steep Absaroka mountain range on the west contrasts sharply with the unique high tundra Beartooth Plateau in the east. The area contains the oldest known rocks found to date in the world, several spectacular waterfalls, Granite Peak (Montana's highest at 12,799 feet) and important habitat for grizzly bear and the Northern Rocky Mountain wolf.

The North Absaroka roadless area, which comprises the northwestern portion of the proposed wilderness, was the only area in the Nation to receive a perfect 200 wilderness quality rating during the Forest Service's 1972 roadless area review. In addition, three road corridors which penetrate the area, plus numerous fringing roads, will insure that the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is accessible to the public from all directions and differing elevations. In the summer months, the Beartooth Highway, which skirts the southeastern portion of the area provides vehicular access right up to the area boundary and spectacular views into the very heart of the wilderness.

Timber values in the proposal are largely confined to drainages which flow south into Yellowstone Park and currently comprise the Absaroka Primitive Area. In the view of many people timber harvest could not be accomplished without unacceptable impacts on adjacent Yellowstone Park lands, and declassification of the existing Absaroka Primitive Area, which has enjoyed protection as one of the Nation's outstanding wild areas since 1932. Further, average timber harvest levels on the Custer and Gallatin National Forests in recent years are far below the annual potential yield for the two forests, and clearly show that the timber values of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness proposal are not needed to sustain the forest products industry. For these reasons, the committee feels the impacts of wilderness classification on the timber industry will be minimal.

Although the area does contain significant mineral values, several areas containing active mining claims were excluded from the original wilderness proposal by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. In addition, the committee recommended deletion of an area containing mining claims above the west fork of the Stillwater River to exclude the bulk of mining claims held by the Anaconda Co. and others. This deletion eliminates most known mineral provinces from the wilderness (including over 99 percent of the so-called Stillwater complex), and should insure that wilderness and potential mineralized areas do not overlap.

Throughout the committee's consideration of the Absaroka-Beartooth wilderness, committee members were mindful of the importance of this area to our late friend, and former colleague, Senator Lee

Metcalf. It was Senator Metcalf who introduced S. 1671, and was its unerring supporter and champion. It is with the deepest sense of respect and affection that the committee recommends the creation of a unified Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness as proposed in S. 1671.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness legislation was originally introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. Udall as section 2(a)(6) of H.R. 1907. The Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands held a joint hearing with the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation on the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness in Billings, Mont., on August 10, 1977. A subsequent hearing was held in Washington, D.C., on October 6, 1977.

On February 7, 1978, the Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands considered the proposal and recommended it in the same form as that ultimately approved by the Senate on February 17. Accordingly, the bill recommended by the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs (S. 1671):

(1) Deletes approximately 46,500 acres of land in the Shoshone National Forest, Wyo., which are contiguous to the Montana proposal. This area, known as the Wyoming High Lakes will be considered by the committee in separate legislation later this year.

(2) Deletes 50 acres in the North Fork of Deep Creek to allow construction of trailhead facilities to reduce public use conflicts on adjacent private lands.

(3) Deletes 800 acres in the vicinity of Independence Peak to leave out all patented mining claims plus adjacent areas to allow high elevation off road vehicle access to the edge of the wilderness.

(4) Excludes 150 acres in the Goose Lake drainage to place the boundary on more identifiable terrain features and permit four-wheel-drive access to within one-fourth mile of the lake while still protecting the fragile lake basin. *

(5) Deletes 1,400 acres around Kersey Lake to exclude a 160 acre subdivision on the North Shore of Kersey Lake as well as adjacent lands suitable for snowmobiling.

(6) Deletes 4,500 acres in Timberline-Basin Creek area following the administration's recommendations but still protecting the actual streambottoms of the west fork of Rock Creek and the Lake Fork.

(7) Adds 600 acres along the Stillwater River to protect spectacular Woodbine Falls, the longest waterfalls in the northern Rockies.

In addition, the bill eliminates most of the active mining claims above the west fork of the Stillwater River. Under this legislation, the river bottom up to approximately the 7,000-foot contour line remains in the wilderness.

COST AND BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE

S. 1671, as amended, entails no additional costs and authorizes no appropriations. Since the bill merely classifies as wilderness certain Federal lands, the budget implications are minimal. The report of the Congressional Budget Office is printed below:

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
U.S. CONGRESS,
Washington, D.C., February 23, 1978.

Hon. MORRIS K. UDALL,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 1671, a bill to designate the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Custer and Gallatin National Forests, in the State of Montana, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, February 22, 1978.

Based on this review, it appears that no additional cost to the Government would be incurred as a result of enactment of this bill. One possible cost could stem from the potential loss of timber receipts, since 6.5 million board feet of timber will be removed from the timber base of the Custer and Gallatin National Forests as a result of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness designation. However, no loss of receipts is likely to occur in the near future, for two reasons. First, no receipts are currently collected from timber sale on the land involved, nor are any expected in the next few years. Second. the timber harvest for the entire forest is not presently constrained by the estimated annual potential yield in this forest. Receipts would be lost if, at some future date, the rate of harvesting approaches the maximum yield. Under such circumstances, the total revenue loss would be about $300,000 (at 1978 timber values).

The area also includes approximately 275 mining claims and 2 parcels of privately owned land. The Government is not obligated by law to purchase the claims on the private property, and there are no plans to make these purchases at the current time.

Sincerely,

ALICE M. RIVLIN, *Director.*

INFLATIONARY IMPACT

Pursuant to rule X, clause 2(1)(4) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the committee believes that enactment of S. 1671, as amended, would have virtually no inflationary impact on the national economy.

OVERSIGHT STATEMENT

In accordance with the committee's jurisdiction and responsibilities in reviewing and reporting legislation on wilderness matters, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs would have oversight responsibilities over any action of the Secretary taken to comply with the mandate of the legislation. No recommendations were submitted to the committee pursuant to rule X, clause 2(b)(2).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On February 22, 1978, the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs ordered reported S. 1671, as amended by the Senate, by voice vote.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

The Department of Agriculture reported by letter dated February 28, 1978, that it recommended enactment of the Absaroka-Beartooth proposal, contained in H.R. 1907, with boundary adjustments. The report in its entirety follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., February 28, 1978.

Hon. MORRIS K. UDALL,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Department of Agriculture wishes to report on section 2(a)(6) of H.R. 1907, a bill to designate 39 wildernesses within the National Wildlife Refuges and 14 wildernesses or wilderness additions within the National Forests. Section 2(a)(6) would designate as wilderness 960,000 acres in the Custer and Gallatin National Forests, Mont., and Shoshone National Forest, Wyo., classified as the Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive Areas.

The administration recommends that section 2(a)(6) of H.R. 1907 be enacted with the boundary modifications proposed herein.

This reflects and is consistent with the testimony presented by the Department of Agriculture to your Subcommittee on Indian Affairs and Public Lands, October 6, 1977, and to the Senate Subcommittee on Parks and Recreation in its September 23, 1977, hearing on S. 1671.

The Absaroka and Beartooth Primitive Areas were studied previously for wilderness suitability in accordance with section 3(b) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 891, 16 U.S.C. 1132). As a result, the administration recommended to the Congress on December 4, 1974, a Beartooth Wilderness of 542,437 acres. Subsequent completion of a geological and minerals survey by the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Bureau of Mines has provided minerals information that enables us, now, to support a larger wilderness designation.

Specifically, we recommend a Beartooth Wilderness totaling 886,500 acres consisting of most of the area proposed in section 2(a)(6) of H.R. 1907. We believe certain areas should be deleted from the H.R. 1907 proposal in order to provide better access into the wilderness and to exclude private lands and nonwilderness uses. We also propose various boundary adjustments to better fit the boundary to the terrain. These deletions total about 50,000 acres and boundary adjustments total 23,500 acres. They are described in the enclosed supplemental statement and map.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

BOB BERGLAND, *Secretary.*

Enclosures.

H.R. 1907 (section 2(a) (6)) summary sheet for Beartooth Wilderness

	Acres
H.R. 1907 (section 2(6)) (Montana and Wyoming)	960,000
Administration recommendation	886,500
(S. 1671) (Montana only)	(913,500)
Absaroka Primitive Area	64,000
Beartooth Primitive Area	234,000
Total	294,000

1. Resource values

Wilderness.—Outstanding values. Has a variety of ecosystems, topographic features, opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, scenic values, research potentials, et cetera. Beartooth portion offers greater mountaineering challenges, contains Montana's highest peak—Granite Peak (12,799 feet), unpredictable weather, true glaciers, and alpine tundra. Absaroka portion is more easily traversed, more extensively forested, and has fewer lakes and larger big game populations.

Timber.—Very little commercial forest land in the Beartooth portion; most timber values lie in the Absaroka area. Data are:

	H.R. 1907	USDA proposal
Commercial forest land (acres)	112,000	110,000
Standing volume (million board feet)	1,084	1,050
Annual potential yield (million board feet)	10	9.7
Volume within Absaroka Primitive Area (million board feet)	382	382

Commercial timber is not a key value in the Wyoming high lakes area.

Minerals.—Known and potential mineral values are a key resource in and near the proposed wilderness. USGS and BM have identified the following seven areas with high or moderate potential:

	Name	Potential	Minerals
Area No.—			
4	Anderson Creek	Moderate	Copper.
7	Hawley Mountain-W. Boulder	do	Uranium and molybdenum.
8	Natural Bridge-Stillwater complex	High	Gold, copper, nickel, platinum, and chromium.
9	Boulder (Independence)	do	Gold, silver, lead, copper, and iron.
10	Horseshoe Mountain	Moderate	Gold.
11	New World (Cooke City)	High	Gold and copper.
12	Hellroaring Plateau	Moderate	Chromite.

	H.R. 1907	USDA proposal
Mining claims:		
Patented claims	26	15
Unpatented claims	443	264
(Hawley Mountain-W. Boulder)	202	202

Recreation.—The proposed wilderness offers excellent opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreational pursuits. The Beartooth portion offers a hiker's paradise and limited horse use due to terrain features. The Absaroka portion offers greater horse use opportunities and is well suited for backpackers. Fishing is abundant in the Beartooth's many lakes. Scenic values offer much to the photographer. Wilderness visits in 1976 were: Absaroka 16,000; Beartooth 103,400 visitor days.

Wildlife and Fish.—Absaroka portion has elk, deer, moose, Bighorn sheep, mountain goat, black and grizzly bear, and occasional buffalo from the park. There are three major streams and five lakes with trout fisheries. The Beartooth portion has lesser numbers of big game animals. Fishing is mostly limited to over 134 lakes as most streams have cold temperatures.

Water.—There are 10 major drainages with an estimated average annual water yield of 2 million acre-feet. Quality is generally very high.

Forage.—The Absaroka portion has been grazed by sheep for many years and numbers are now greatly reduced from the peak years. The primitive area portion has not been grazed since the 1930's. There is abundant recreational livestock feed. Much of the Beartooth portion has limited forage near lakes and streams. Much of the area is above timberline and supports little vegetation. The tundra plateaus are no longer grazed by domestic livestock. There is some sheep grazing in the Wyoming high lakes area.

Cultural.—The historic and archeological values are found in the total area. There is evidence of early man's use at 10,000 feet elevation and dating back 9,000 years. More recent American native occupancy is known as well as early day trappers and mountain men.

2. Management considerations

Structures.—There are maintained trails and about nine or ten cabin sites.

Landownership.—416 acres of private land (Frenchys Meadows) in Slough Creek and a few potential mining claims.

3. Public reaction

There is general public support for the proposal. The Governor of Montana recently endorsed it. Support from Wyoming for that portion is unknown at the present; there was Wyoming opposition in 1974.

Those opposing appear to be ORV users, mainly snowmobilers who want selected portions excluded and some that don't want the Boulder-Slough Creek corridor (potential road) options closed.

4. Boundary adjustments and exclusions proposed for 960,000 acres in H.R. 1907, section 2(a)(6)

The administration recommends that the following areas be deleted from the area proposed in H.R. 1907 in order to provide better access into the wilderness, to exclude private lands and nonwilderness uses, and to better fit the boundary to the terrain.

(1) *West Fork Stillwater River.*—(About 6,000 acres.) Active mining exploration in this portion of the Stillwater complex mineralized zone is underway. There are constructed roads and mining activities which are not compatible with the wilderness character of the larger area.

(2) *Red Lodge Creek Plateau.*—(About 5,000 acres.) The administration's proposal places the boundary along the breaks of the plateau for better boundary definition.

(3) *Timberline Basin Creek.*—(About 5,400 acres.) This area is to the south of the West Fork of Rock Creek on the east side of the proposed wilderness. The area receives recreational use by people from recreation residences, youth camps, and organization complexes located adjacent to the roaded West Fork of Rock Creek. The increasing use of nearby lakes and other attractions in this area will soon limit the opportunities for solitude and other wilderness values.

(4) *Lake Fork.*—(About 1,080 acres.) The lower 2.5 miles of this highly scenic drainage has a one-way high standard trail system. It receives heavy use by hikers, trail cycles, and horse parties in summer and snowmobiles in winter. The area provides for recreational experience of a type not permitted in a wilderness.

(5) *East Hellroaring Lakes.*—(About 3,600 acres.) The area contains five small lakes within 1 to 2 miles from a road providing access to Hellroaring Plateau. Horses and motorized vehicles will be precluded on designated hiker trails to the lakes. Present use, which will increase, is by families who wish to hike a short distance to fish and picnic at these high elevation lakes (10,000 feet). Most of the lakes in the Beartooth area will be within the proposed wilderness; these lakes will be available for use by nonwilderness visitors. The revised boundary takes advantage of the topography.

(6) *Glacier Lake.*—This proposed exclusion of approximately 860 acres has a 12-foot concrete dam, about 150 feet long, used for irrigation purposes.

(7) *Wyoming High Lakes.*—(About 4,700 acres.) The administration's proposal places the boundary on recognizable terrain features for better identification.

(8) *Kersey Lake Area.*—(About 8,000 acres.) This area contains numerous lakes with easy trail access from the Beartooth Highway. Their popularity for fishing will soon limit the opportunities for solitude and other wilderness values.

(9) *Goose Lake.*—About 1,900 acres are recommended for exclusion. This area is part of the New World (Cooke City) mining district and has a high potential for gold, copper, and other mineral values. *

(10) *Ash Mountain.*—(About 2,500 acres.) The administration's proposal places the boundary on recognizable topographic features for better identification.

(11) *Davis Creek.*—(About 160 acres.) The proposed boundary is on the National Forest boundary in this area. The administration proposes two 80-acre exclusions on the north and south forks of Davis Creek for trailhead facilities within the Gallatin National Forest to reduce public use conflicts on adjacent private lands.

(12) *Upper Boulder River.*—(About 10,800 acres.) Exclusion of this area from the wilderness facilitates better distribution of wilderness users by enabling motorized access to the divide between Boulder Creek and Slough Creek. This will be an important access point to the Beartooth Wilderness. This area also includes the Boulder (Independence) mining district with patented claims in the Independence Park area which have high potential for gold, silver, and lead.

These exclusions total about 50,000 acres. Another 23,500 acres involve scattered, minor boundary changes for better boundary definition and management.

ASARCO **NEWS**

ASARCO Incorporated
180 Maiden Lane
New York, N.Y. 10038

May 24, 1984

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THOMPSON FALLS, MONTANA -- ASARCO Incorporated announced today that it has submitted to the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Department of State Lands a Plan of Operations relating to a silver-copper deposit located in the Rock Creek drainage area near Noxon, Montana.

Asarco stated that the submittal of the plan is the first step toward obtaining the permits necessary for development of the Rock Creek ore body. It is expected that this permitting process will take a minimum of two years and will involve a full scale environmental impact study relating to the proposed project.

The Asarco block of mining claims is partially leased from Kennecott Corporation and is mostly located in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness Area of the Kaniksu National Forest. All major surface installations are planned to be located outside the wilderness area; and the mining operations themselves will be by underground methods. Asarco initiated diamond drilling at the site in 1979 and completed its exploration program in 1983.

Asarco is currently operating the nearby Troy mine which has an ore body geologically similar to that at Rock Creek. One of the

(more)

APR84-5-8

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION William K. Murray (212) 510 1810/Donald M. Noyes (212) 510 1813
Public Relations Department ASARCO Incorporated 180 Maiden Lane N.Y. 10038

Attachment #14

largest silver mines in the United States and also a significant copper producer, the Troy mine began production in early 1982. It is an example of the use of modern mining technology to extract essential minerals from the earth with minimal impact on the surrounding environment.

Terry Erskine, project manager at Rock Creek, stated, "Asarco believes its Rock Creek ore body to be a discovery of substantial promise both for the Company and for the economy of northwestern Montana. Asarco has been involved in smelting and mining in Montana for over 70 years.

"The Troy mine, Asarco's latest project, has proven to be profitable to the Company and has been an important economic factor for the local community and for the state. We believe the Troy mine is now one of the most environmentally sound mining operations in the United States. We have been encouraged by the broad acceptance the facility has received in the local community and among state officials," Erskine said.

"In light of the severely depressed state of the mining industry over the last few years, it is encouraging to be able to propose a project of the size and potential of Rock Creek," he stated. "While we recognize that a full review of all aspects of the environmental, social and economic impacts of the project is necessary and we welcome it, we are convinced that we can eventually develop a mine that Montanans can be proud of.

(more)

"The plan we are submitting today is proof of Asarco's continuing confidence in the future of the mining industry and its long-term commitment to and confidence in the economy of Montana," the project manager concluded.

# # #

APR84-5-8

conoco

W. A. Petersen
Manager of Metallics Exploration
Minerals Department

Conoco Inc.
555 Seventeenth Street
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 575-6063

March 10, 1980

Ms. Margaret Reeb, President
Copper King Mining Co.
819 E. Hazel Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85040

Dear Ms. Reeb:

Sorry to have passed your February 15th suggested dateline for replying. I am, however, writing you because your offering of a mineral interest in property located in Montana deserves the courtesy of a response, albeit belatedly.

Conoco, along with most everyone else in the natural resources business, is increasingly beseiged by overlapping and duplicating elements within the federal (and states) bureaucracy, by proponents of non-development as the American alternative; and we are particularly plagued at nearly every turn by actions taken at government agency sublevels such as you have alluded to in the public lands "lock-up" issue. Yet the company's faith in the American free enterprise system is not diminished, nor can Conoco be deterred from its charted course to be among those who are committed to exploring for, developing and producing essential minerals into America's bloodstream.

Notwithstanding the well intended principals of free enterprise, "buy American" and philanthropy which are intertwined with your mineral offering, I am conformed to weighing the merits in business terms. A small mineral interest in a part of the Goose Lake area would be of no interest to us at this time even without it being in the midst of a wilderness area that the government obviously is intent on maintaining. We have several such "dog fights" on our plate, all with about the same kind of mineral showings that are published for Beartooth Primitive Area districts, and involving less money involvement at the outset for a more representative interest.

I do thank you for thinking of Conoco in making your interesting offer.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Petersen

WAP:mec

Attachment #15

STATEMENT OF BOB ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION, BOZEMAN, MT

Mr. Anderson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am Bob Anderson, executive director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. With your indulgence, I will submit written testimony before the closure of the record and deliver a few brief remarks today.

Senator Melcher. Yes, it will be part of the record.

Mr. Anderson. Thank you. The Greater Yellowstone Coalition was formed about a year ago. We now have 28 member organizations who are environmentalists, conservationists, sportsmen, and outfitters from the Northern Rockies. Our mission is to protect and preserve in its nearly intact condition the greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

If any of you have been following closely, the wilderness bills in all three States, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, we are extremely appreciative of the efforts that Senator Baucus and Senator Melcher and Representatives Williams and Marlenee have contributed toward the objective of solving the wilderness questions in Montana. And we appreciate the recognition that the congressional delegation has given of the wilderness values of many of the lands included in S. 2850.

However, we think the bill has some serious shortcomings and we think that those shortcomings result from over ambitious objectives. We think that the objective to solve all of the wilderness problems in Montana was probably aiming too high and we think that objective is probably contrary to the objective of trying to reach consensus on all of those issues.

Finally, the third objective of getting the bill passed this year, I think is difficult to accomplish, given the difficulty of the first two objectives. We think that as a result S. 2850 has overlooked the high quality of a number of wilderness lands in Montana and has underestimated the broad popular support for the wilderness concept in Montana.

My comments will now focus on some specifics of the bill, the specifics related to the greater Yellowstone ecosystem. One of the provisions of the bill is to designate some special management areas in the Gallatin Range, near Bozeman. We urge that that provision be deleted and that the Montana Wilderness Study Act process, which was well established a few years ago, be allowed to run to completion.

Simultaneously, we urge that there be an active seeking of a solution to the checkerboard ownership problem in the Gallatin Range, and we encourage you to look closely at the amendment to S. 2850, which was proposed by Mr. Kirkmire of Burlington Northern.

On the Lionhead Range, we are happy that you appreciated and recognized the wilderness values in that area, but we recommend a boundary change. We believe that Upper Watkins Creek and Landhead Mountain should be included in that proposed wilderness.

We believe that the boundary can be adjusted to accomplish that and at the same time allow snowmobile use in that area.

We are especially interested in Goose Lake and encourage that that provision be deleted from the bill, that Goose Lake and its surroundings be retained in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. We think there was a good case made for its inclusion originally and we think that case still exists, as articulately explained by Mr. Hart.

In addition, we support wilderness designation for 44,800 acres of additions to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, 2,900 acres of additions to the North Absaroka Wilderness, and wilderness protection for the Lime Creek Plateau, which is east of the Beartooth Highway and adjacent to the proposed Deep Lake Wilderness in Wyoming.

In conclusion, we think it is possible to pass a bill this year, but we do not think it is possible for that bill to achieve all of the objectives which have been proposed for it. We think the bill must be simplified and cleaned up considerably. We think the 393 or Montana Wilderness Study Act area should be deleted from the bill and that the bill attempt only to solve the RARE II problem.

We encourage that the ecosystem approach be taken for the Lionhead and the Land Creek Plateau. We strongly urge that Goose Lake be retained in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. We encourage a whole category for some of the contentious RARE II areas which clearly have high wilderness values, but may also have some opposition from other interests. We encourage the deletion of the concept of special management areas.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Anderson follows:]

Statement of
Bob Anderson, Executive Director
GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION
40 East Main
Bozeman, MT 59715

Before the
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water
of the
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

on
S. 2850, a bill to designate certain National Forest System lands in the State of Montana for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes.

August 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Bob Anderson, Executive Director of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. The Coalition is an alliance of conservation, sporting, and outfitters organizations from the northern Rockies. The Coalition was formed in May of 1983 to preserve and protect the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem and its important and unique wildlife, recreation, scenic, geothermal, geological, and botanical resources. A list of the Coalition's 28 member groups is attached.

The Coalition appreciates the commitment and efforts of the Montana congressional delegation, which has labored arduously in an attempt to resolve the many wildland allocation issues in the state of Montana. S. 2850 recognizes the outstanding wilderness values of many Montana areas, including the Lionhead, a part of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. S. 2850 has provided a forum for lively debate in Montana.

S. 2850 has serious shortcomings, however, in attempting to accomplish at least three objectives:

to resolve all the wilderness issues in Montana,
to produce an acceptable bill through a process of consensus, and
to pass a bill this year.

In our opinion, these objectives are mutually exclusive. The attempt to resolve all of Montana's wilderness issues has led to contentious debate among Montana citizens and strenuous opposition from the conservation community. The consensus process has led to the lowest common denominator. And the disagreements over the bill make passage this year unlikely and unwise. Most importantly, the high-quality wilderness values of many Montana areas has been overlooked.

Page two
Statement of Bob Anderson, Executive Director
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
August 9, 1984

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition is concerned about the lands in Montana in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Those lands are enclosed in the rough semicircle which begins at West Yellowstone and proceeds clockwise through Ennis, Bozeman, Livingston, Absarokee, and Red Lodge. S. 2850 relates to several areas in this ecosystem.

In the Gallatin Range, S. 2850 would designate the 36,600-acre Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wildlife Area and the 27,800-acre Hyalite Peak Scenic Area. Such designation would be premature since the Gallatin Range is a congressionally-designated wilderness study area with an established process for review and public participation. That process should be allowed to run its course, recognizing that the area has a checkerboard ownership with titles of alternating sections held by the federal government (U.S. Forest Service) and the Burlington Northern Railroad.

Simultaneous with the wilderness study process, serious attempts should be made to resolve the problems created by this ownership pattern, not the least of which is the opportunity for wilderness allocation. The land exchange embodied in S. 2850 would consolidate some of the important lands in the ownership of the federal government. An amendment to S. 2850 proposed by Burlington Northern would carry that process a step further. We urge that serious consideration be given to that amendment, though the Coalition is not in a position to comment on the merits of BN's coal acquisition in eastern Montana.

S. 2850 commendably recognizes the outstanding wilderness resource in 24,500 acres of the Lionhead area. We urge, however, that the boundary be shifted to include upper Watkins Creek and Lionhead Mountain. The high alpine meadows need wilderness protection and wilderness recreation would be greatly enhanced by the inclusion of the unparalleled vistas of the Tetons, the Madison Range, and the Yellowstone Plateau. Careful selection of the boundary location can avoid potential conflicts with snow machine use of lower Watkins Creek.

On the Idaho side of the state line is the southern Lionhead, which enjoys no wilderness protection. We urge that wilderness designation take the entire Lionhead Range into account, consistent with the ecosystem concept.

Other areas in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem which deserve wilderness protection are:

additions to the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness--44,800 acres;

additions to the North Absaroka Wilderness (including the

Republic Mountain area, partly protected by S. 2850)--2,900 acres; and
Line Creek Plateau--20,680 acres.

The Line Creek Plateau is especially important because of its neighbor in Wyoming--the proposed Deep Lake Wilderness. Together, these areas comprise the southern flank of the Beartooth Plateau, an alpine area unique in North America. Here, the ecosystem concept should also be applied.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition takes strong exception to the provision of S. 2850 which would delete 1,700 acres at Goose Lake from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. It has been alleged that Goose Lake was inadvertently included in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness when it was designated in 1978. The contrary is true. Goose Lake was included in S. 1671, introduced in 1977 by Sen. Lee Metcalf; his introductory remarks specifically mentioned Goose Lake. Hearings held in Montana on S. 1671 generated testimony supporting the protection of Goose Lake. The Congressional reports on those hearings discussed Goose Lake and recommended a minor boundary modification to make wilderness management easier, but recommended inclusion of the lake and its basin.

Deletion of the Goose Lake basin to satisfy the desires of the landowners of a small part of the area would be inconsistent with the philosophy of the wilderness act and would set a dangerous national precedent, weakening the wilderness concept. A wilderness deletion of this size, far exceeding the scale of a boundary adjustment, must be done only when the case is compelling. To the contrary, the compelling case here is for continuation of wilderness designation.

Goose Lake, at elevation 10,000 feet, lies in an open alpine basin characterized by a short growing season, thin, nutrient-poor soils, and a harsh climate. It is the access to Grasshopper Glacier and the scene of successful spawning by native cutthroat trout. Evidence of early mineral exploration is visible, but not inconsistent with wilderness. Rather, it is a stark reminder of the fragility of the alpine environment.

Mineralization has been known at Goose Lake since the turn of the century. Nearly eight decades passed before the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness was created, yet no economical mining operation was ever established. The reasons--low concentrations of minerals and the severe environment which led to high costs. During the 1970's, the basin was extensively explored by mining companies using modern techniques. Their conclusion--Goose Lake would not be an economical venture, with or without wilderness protection.

In 1978, Congress made a conscious decision. Goose Lake was protected by wilderness designation, but not necessarily from mining. Mining can be done on valid claims in wilderness and access to private lands is assured. But if mining is to be done at Goose Lake, it should be done under the constraints of the wilderness act to minimize the impact on the fragile environment.

In summary, the Greater Yellowstone commends the Montana congressional delegation for its sincere efforts to produce a bill which would put to rest the wilderness issues in Montana. Though we oppose certain provisions of S. 2850 and we oppose the bill in its current form, we believe that modifications could be made which would enable the bill to pass this year:

the bill should attempt to resolve only the RARE II issues;

the Montana Wilderness Study Act areas should be deleted and their ongoing process for consideration should run its course;

the concept of special management areas should be dropped;

the ecosystem concept should be applied to the Lionhead and the Line Creek Plateau and their adjacent lands in Idaho and Wyoming;

Goose Lake should be retained in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness; and

areas on which agreement cannot be reached should be allocated to a wilderness study status with interim protection like that of the Montana Wilderness Study Act areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to present these views.

GREATER YELLOWSTONE COALITION
LIST OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS
August 9, 1984

Jackson Hole Alliance for Responsible Planning
Idaho Conservation League
Montana Wilderness Association
California Wildlife Trust
Madison-Gallatin Alliance
Montana Audubon Council
Northern Rockies Chapter--Sierra Club
Montana Wildlife Federation
Defenders of Wildlife
Wyoming Wilderness Association
Conservation Endowment Fund
Montana Chapter--Sierra Club
Committee for Idaho's High Desert
Idaho Environmental Council
American Wilderness Alliance
Wyoming Chapter--Sierra Club
Yellowstone Valley Audubon
Murie Audubon Society
Wildlife-Wildlands Institute
Big Horn Audubon
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Outfitters and Guides Assoc.
Great Bear Foundation
New York Zoological Society
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Gallatin Wildlife Association
North Yellowstone Rim Alliance
Cody Country Outfitters & Guides Assiciation

STATEMENT OF DOUGLAS H. CHADWICK, ON BEHALF OF THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTH FORK PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Mr. CHADWICK. Thank you. Senators, my name is Doug Chadwick. I am a wildlife biologist by training and I carried out research on mountain mammals for a number of years in Glacier Park and the Swan Mountains. I am here on behalf of the Montana Wilderness Association, the North Fork Preservation Association and my family, because we make our home in the North Fork of the Flathead River Valley.

Since I am the cleanup here, the one thing that struck me, as I heard several times today, is that we already have 3.4 million acres of wilderness set aside, as though that were a terrific amount. I guess the thing that occurs to me is, of course, we have 3.4 million acres set aside, because this is Montana and it is the prettiest State in our Nation and we have got 11 million acres we are really arguing over and I am glad that we have that kind of country to sit here and haggle over.

I wish I had something I could encourage you and say I congratulate you on the bill and all of that. I am just glad we are all here haggling over this beautiful State. I have a very myopic view. I am looking strictly at wildlife, because that is my training. And the North Fork where I live is as good as it gets for wildlife in the States south of Alaska. There is no richer, more varied community of the big bushy-haired mammals that Montana is famous for anywhere, from moose and marten to lynx and cougar. What is supposed to be here is here, the way it was made. Everything is there and that is a treasure in itself.

I know you have probably heard many more times than you want to about the grizzly bears in the north end of the Flathead. This is our best population in the lower 48 and it is not just in the north end. The dense population of grizzlies, our best hope for recovering this species, for getting it off the threatened list, is really throughout the North Fork, in the whole complex of wildlands, and it extends down the North Fork as far as the Apgar Range.

You have heard people talk about the wolves and for a long time they were more of a shadow than a reality. Now, they are here. We have had scores of sightings in the last 2 years. I had wolf tracks twice near my cabin this winter. They have been seen again, not just in the north end, but all through the North Fork, all through that complex of wildlands and as far south as the Apgars.

The mountain caribou or we say the mountain race of woodland caribou, I do not know about the reality of that in the North Fork. It is a reality in northwestern Montana. There have been more caribou sightings in northwestern Montana since the 1980's than have been seen in Idaho. Yet, the mountain caribou is only listed in Idaho. It is listed right now as our most critically endangered mammal. But the North Fork's historical habitat, the north end, contains some caribou habitat. It has not been evaluated and nearby Glacier Park has. My point is that we do not have this unparalleled array of species in the North Fork, because of the park or because of the north end, it is because of the whole array of, the mosaic of diverse habitat there and because of the security and the freedom they enjoy, because it is wild.

The question is, What are we going to preserve of that? I am grateful to the delegation for having set aside in the bill the Tuchuck-Hefty area. This is more of a question than a statement I guess, I do not understand why Thompson-Seton just to the south was not included. It seems like the same individual animals and for that matter if you stick a collar on one of the grizzlies there, you will find it in Glacier Park 1 day and a week later it will be in the north end. It may be in Canada a few days later. They use the whole area as one. And certainly Thompson-Seton has the same density.

Most of the Whitefish Range is committed to development or multiple use, and I say fine. As you both know, Canada is in the midst of an unprecedented rush for extracting hydrocarbons and timber and our best bet for this whole ecosystem really is the north end and I just wanted to encourage you as much as possible to add Thompson-Seton to this area. It is used as a unit by the animals. I think it should be a unit as presented in wilderness and the Forest Service called it unmanageable boundaries and in my experience as a biologist, what is really unmanageable is to make ecosystems that are too small, not too isolated and not well enough connected, because then we end up tinkering and patching and managing and doing more of these endless studies that people object to, and spending more taxpayer dollars. And it goes on and on and on.

While we have the chance, please set aside as much as you can of the whole ecosystem, and the last thing is also on the Rocky Mountain Front, if you will.

Thank you very much.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Chadwick follows.]

Testimony
Before The
Senate Energy And Natural Resources Committee,
August 9, 1984

Douglas H. Chadwick
Box 175, Polebridge, MT 59928

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Doug Chadwick. I am a wildlife biologist by training, and I carried out research on mountain mammals for a number of years in Glacier Park and the Swan Mountains. I'm here on behalf of the Montana Wilderness Association, the North Fork Preservation Association, and my family, because we make our home in the North Fork of the Flathead River Valley.

The North Fork is as good as it gets for wildlife in the states south of Alaska, you know. There is no richer, more varied community of the big bushy-haired species Montana is famous for, from moose and marten to lynx and cougar. What's supposed to be here is here, the way it was made. Everything. And that's a treasure in itself.

You've probably heard more than a few times how the lower 48 states' densest populations of grizzlies are found along the North Fork. I wish I could take you on a trip to the valley's North End in spring to look over the mosaic of forest cover, apen and alder bogs, and beaver-dammed streams where the great bears feast on cow parsnip. Or up on a dry windy slope just a couple of miles away in early fall when they're picking berries and digging up ground squirrels. The thing is, they're not just concentrated in the North End but also 25 to 30 miles south into the Apgar Range.

Here too in the North Fork howl the only verified resident wolves west of the Great Lakes region - again well south into the Apgar Range, with scores of sightings having been reported throughout the North Fork over the past two years. I saw two different sets of tracks not far from my cabin this year.

Here as well is historical habitat for the mountain race of woodland caribou, which have been recorded in northwestern Montana during every decade since the turn of the century. In fact, since 1980, Montana has provided more woodland caribou sightings than Idaho, where the Selkirk Mountains herd qualifies as our nation's most endangered mammal. In 1981 one of these reindeer-like beasts was seen as far south as Coal Creek in the North Fork.

We don't have this unparalleled array of species in the North Fork simply because of nearby Glacier Park or because of the prime diversity of habitat in Tuchuck-Hefty. We have it because of the entire complex of wildlands available throughout the North Fork area. And because of the security and freedom from disturbance offered by those wildlands.

What are we going to preserve of all this? I am grateful to the Montana delegation for agreeing to set aside the Tuchuck-Hefty area. Most grateful, as a scientist and as a North Fork resident. In a sense, you've safeguarded a bit of my future too. But I can't understand why the adjoining Thompson-Seton area, which has all the same qualities and is used by the same individual animals as part of a single unit, was not protected as well.

Virtually the entire remainder of the Whitefish Range is committed to multiple use. Fine. But it is already extensively roaded and subject to heavy timber harvest at high elevations as well as low, and much more of the same is planned. It may become a petroleum boom area. It at least promises to become an increasingly popular residential area. On its side of the border, Canada is in the midst of an unprecedented rush to extract oil, gas, coal, and timber from the North Fork.

What does that leave us? What is the highest and best use for existing North Fork wildlands?

It seems to me that our best bet to get the grizzly - our state animal - off the threatened list one day; to ultimately get the wolf off the endangered list; to restore woodland caribou, once native to eight or nine states south of Canada; to protect the best hunting and recreational areas in the Whitefish Range; and to minimize degradation of Whale Creek, the best bull trout spawning stream on the U. S. side of the Flathead drainage ..... our best bet is to take one simple step: Add Thompson-Seton to the North End Wilderness. It's the least we can do.

And why not? Are the boundaries unmanageable, as the Forest Service suggested? A glance at the map shows only several short roads probing into the northern section of it. Yet they are already closed off for wildlife protection, as they indeed should be.

What will be unmanageable would be to designate a less than adequate segment of wildlands. Don't compromise too much now, please! Having studied parks and preserves during trips to Africa and Asia, I've seen unmanageable ecosystems, too small, too isolated, too incomplete to run themselves. We need a self-sufficient wildlife resource, whose long-term values satisfy our needs in every respect: educational, artistic, spiritual - and economic. We can also save taxpayers a pile of dollars by doing it right the first time and thereby avoiding the endless studies, conflicts, tinkering, and patching that come when ecosystems lack a vital size and key connections.

For the same reasons, I urge you with all my heart and mind to round out the incomparable Bob Marshall wildland complex as fully, as richly as possible. Any scientist can tell you that the Rocky Mountain Front offers better habitat in many respects, and greater variety, than the highlands already established as wilderness. That±s the main reason why the Front supports an increasing grizzly population with high productivity in some key sections. Terrific spring and fall range. Lots of carcasses. Plus, at least right now, the security of wildness.

There's the reason these areas work. It's like the Swan Crest, where the mammals I studied moved freely up and down the length of the Range and thrived in the subalpine basins. Why not? Why not keep things working like this? We're not giving up anything. It's already wilderness. Please, on behalf of all of us, make it official. And keep Montana spectacularly alive, for all the years and animals and children to come.

Senator **Melcher**. Thank you. Thank all of you.

Senator **Baucus**. No questions.

Senator **Melcher**. This concludes our witness list and concludes the hearing on S. 2850.

[Whereupon, at 2:55 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD*

State of Montana
Office of the Governor
Helena, Montana 59620

TED SCHWINDEN
GOVERNOR

May 10, 1984

(Montana Congressional Delegation)

Senator John Melcher
Senator Max Baucus
Congressman Pat Williams
Congressman Ron Marlenee

Dear Senator/Congressman:

I am submitting for your consideration and action, my wilderness recommendations -- essentially those shared with your staff in late March in Washington. The many decisions made by my Wilderness Advisory Committee in preparing this recommendation were not easy decisions. Seeking the proper balance between protecting wild land assets and developing commodity resources is as elusive as it is important...no analytical formula exists for choosing the best areas for wilderness. I can assure you that no particular interest or group will be satisifed with these recommendations! The recommendations do, however, represent a reasonable and responsible compromise shaped by the inputs of many concerned Montanans. No group or interest is treated unfairly in our recommendation. We sought to preserve our best wild land assets, while releasing all of the other lands to the U.S. Forest Service planning process. We attempted to reduce commodity - user conflicts by selectively using boundary modifications, following geologic features wherever possible. As a result the areas chosen represent the best of what is left, with the least amount of conflict.

My recommendation is similar to the state recommendation made in 1978 by Governor Judge, a recommendation which I helped develop and fully supported. Since then, changes at the forest level and in available data have made it necessary to refine the 1978 proposal, to redefine boundaries, and add or drop areas depending upon their current wilderness suitability.

In the state's 1978 RARE II recommendation, we asked that additional lands be given congressional recognition and protection by designation as "back country." The purpose was to preserve the status quo without classifying all our prized wild lands as wilderness. That option was not pursued in this review, due to a lack of support from any of the interests participating in this process. However, problems relating to the intensity of development of Montana wild lands, particularly road construction, remain serious and unresolved.

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*Due to the voluminous nature of the material submitted, not all could be accommodated in the printed record. However, all submissions have been retained in subcommittee files and will be used when considering this legislation.

I have been as explicit as possible in proposing wilderness boundaries even though I was somewhat reluctant to do so because of the tremendous responsibility in identifying the number of issues that go into identifying a discrete boundary. The proposed boundaries reflect the information made available to us, and our intent was to facilitate the task before you in formulating a wilderness bill for RARE II areas in Montana. I certainly recognize that additional information may be forthcoming during the congressional process which may require further adjustments or refinements to this recommendation.

I would like to briefly mention several highlights of the enclosed recommendation, which would add about 1,026,208 acres to the wilderness system in Montana. Of the 38 areas proposed for wilderness, 24 are additions to existing wildernesses, and 14 are new wilderness areas. The additions will help to broaden and diversify the character of existing wildernesses and improve the opportunities for a quality experience for the wilderness users.

The major recommendations for additions to the wilderness system occur in three general regions of Montana: the Bob Marshall complex additions, the upper Clark Fork-Big Hole drainage, and the lower Clark Fork. There are also a few areas or additions to existing wilderness located outside these general regions.

The completion of certain ecosystems partially represented by existing wilderness areas is a key aspect of my recommendation, most notably among these is the Bob Marshall. It is an area of high oil and gas interest and also an area possessing the highest wildlife values of any area considered. Special mention of our rationale is, therefore, in order.

Since the turn of the century, the people of Montana have been committed to restoring the big game of the Sun River and Rocky Mountain Front. In 1913, the legislature created the Sun River Game Preserve and since that time the state has acquired three wildlife management areas, and the Nature Conservancy a preserve. Today we have restored one of the most significant big game habitats on earth.

My recommendations along the Front seek to preserve that progress. I have relaxed the boundaries on all the units from the total roadless area. This was done to accommodate some oil and gas exploration, post, pole and firewood cutting, and perhaps some logging. The main thrust of our program, however, is to continue with the restoration of this remarkable big game habitat and the wilderness additions proposed will help ensure our accomplishments.

Additions proposed to the south and west of the "Bob" are logical extensions to the existing wilderness. They will extend protection to beautiful terrain and ecologically sensitive lands. The use of these places has traditionally been wild land uses.

The proposed additions to the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness and the addition of the Scotchman Peak area to the wilderness system will provide a more complete ecosystem for the wide-ranging grizzly bear while fully allowing for economic development through mining, timber harvest, and recreational facilities in the Libby area. The proposed Selway-Bitterroot additions will ensure the protection of vital mountain goat winter ranges and highly scenic, heavily used recreation area. Additions to the Anaconda Pintlar will also round out that ecosystem and lend added protection to the nationally recognized Rock Creek and Big Hole River blue ribbon trout streams.

Without a doubt Montana has a truly unique opportunity to exercise foresight and to develop a majestic wilderness system which will be important to future generations. Inherent in that system is recognition of some truly unique and deserving areas until now recognized and appreciated by only a local constituency. The other half of my recommendation includes the fourteen (14) new wilderness areas. They each have their own unique character and values. The 14 new areas include: the East Pioneer Mountains, the West Big Hole, Italian Peaks, Stoney Mountain, Lost Water Canyon, Flint Range/Dolus Lake, Electric Peak, Tuchuck, Jewel Basin, Lionhead, Mount Baldy, Scotchman Peaks, Hoodoo and Cube Iron. A map and complete write up for each area is attached.

Several key wildlife areas were reluctantly excluded from my wilderness recommendation because they seemed to lack the variety of wilderness characteristics possessed by the recommended areas. These include the Snowcrest and Tobacco Roots on the Beaverhead Forest; Allen Mountain on the Bitterroot Forest; Redlodge/Hellroaring and Line Creek Plateau on the Custer Forest; Emerine on the Deer Lodge Forest; Mt. Hefty, Thompson Seton, Young Nasukoin and the Swan Crest on the Flathead Forest; the Crazy Mountains on the Gallatin Forest; Nevada Mountain, Lazyman and Camas Creek on the Helena Forest; Trout Creek on the Kootenai Forest; Castle Mountains and Tenderfoot-Deep Creek on the Lewis and Clark Forest; and Quigg Peak on the Lolo Forest. These are particularly important to wildlife. Proper land stewardship, management and interagency coordination and communication can be an effective tool to enhance these resources.

Finally, of special concern to this administration was the impact additional wilderness designations would have on jobs in Montana now and in the future. This had to be balanced with the benefits that a wilderness designation might have on attracting tourists to the state as opposed to future timber or mineral jobs that might be lost. Every effort was made to minimize the commodity conflict and still maintain a manageable wilderness boundary. I feel confident that this recommendation will enhance Montana's attractiveness to industry.

I believe that the enclosed recommendation represents a reasonable plan for wilderness in the remaining RARE II areas in Montana, and a responsible choice for Montana's future. The opportunities for recreation offered by wilderness are now becoming more important to Montanans as well as to seasonal visitors to Montana. This fact was evidenced by the public support offered during committee deliberations and by the increasing amount of revenue spent on recreation in Montana.

Every area contained in this proposal has been thoroughly reviewed and discussed. The proposal we offer, while admittedly not perfect, is a good balance. I ask its consideration in the development of legislation for a Montana Wilderness Bill, which we hope will be forthcoming soon.

I have enclosed, for you and your staff, a complete write-up detailing the rationale for boundary adjustments and the unique qualities of each area recommended. Also enclosed is a detailed map of each area showing existing roadless boundary and my suggested boundary. I stand ready to elaborate on any or all of these recommendations, and my staff and the Wilderness Committee will be available to provide additional information or explanations you may need. Good luck.

Sincerely,

TED SCHWINDEN
Governor

Enclosures

Governor Schwinden's

1984 Recommendations for Wilderness

	Total Acreage Under Consideration For Wilderness	Governor's Recommendation
Beaverhead National Forest		
1001 North Big Hole (BR)	53,073 (3,320)	31,260 (2,840)
1008 East Pioneer *	93,859	89,658
1943 West Big Hole *	130,511	79,300
1945 Italian Peaks *	90,642	12,907
Subtotal	368,085	213,125
Bitterroot National Forest		
1001 North Big Hole (BH)	3,320 (53,073)	2,840 (31,260)
1BAA Selway-BR Canyons	12,700	12,700
1061 Blodgett Canyon	9,600	9,600
1062 North Fork Lost Horse	7,800	7,800
1063 Trapper Creek	2,500	2,500
1064 Nelson Lake	2,900	2,900
M1845 Meadow Creek	12,600	12,600
1808 (LIBAD) Stony Mtn. (DL; LL) *	43,965 (22,400; 33,120)	23,005 (14,865; 30,560)
Subtotal	95,385	73,945
Custer National Forest		
1362 Lost Water Canyon *	9,800	11,080
Subtotal	9,800	11,080
Deer Lodge National Forest		
1426 Upper East Fork	7,650	5,000
1427 Storm Lake	7,620	7,620
1428/1429 Flint Range/Dolus Lake *	62,210	56,400
1609 Electric Peak (H) *	18,550 (27,478)	10,890 (18,610)
1808 (LIBAD) Stony Mtn. (BR; LL) *	22,400 (43,965; 33,120)	14,865 (23,005; 30,560)
Subtotal	118,430	94,775
Flathead National Forest		
1482 Tuchuck (K) *	17,520 (2,300)	16,700 (2,300)
S1485 Jewel Basin *	68,569	15,360
A1485 Swan Front	141,990	64,000
1500 Mission Addition	960	960
Subtotal	229,039	97,020
Gallatin National Forest		
1545 Republic Mountain	700	480
1963 Lionhead *	32,783	24,500
Subtotal	33,486	24,980

	Total Acreage Under Consideration For Wilderness	Governor's Recommendation
Helena National Forest		
1609 Electric Peak (DL) *	27,478 (18,550)	18,610 (10,890)
1610 Big Log	9,974	9,974
1617 Mount Baldy *	16,114	16,630
Subtotal	53,566	45,214
Kootenai National Forest		
1482 Tuchuck (F) *	2,300 (17,520)	2,300 (16,700)
1662 Scotchman Peaks *	64,417	46,115
1670 Cabinet Face West	9,900	6,886
1671 Cabinet Face East	50,500	17,357
1676 McKay Creek	14,100	6,081
1682 Chippewa Creek	2,100	2,100
Subtotal	142,417	80,839
Lewis and Clark National Forest		
A1485 Choteau Mountain	45,000	39,040
F1435 Silver King-Falls Creek	38,300	42,240
F1485 Deep Creek	41,830	40,320
Q1485 Renshaw	31,304	36,480
Subtotal	156,434	158,080
Lolo National Forest		
1301 Hoodoo (Great Burn) *	98,500	91,600
A1485 Clearwater-Monture	124,000	67,000
1784 Cube Iron *	37,700	32,900
1805 Lolo Creek	14,660	3,990
1806 Welcome Creek Addition	1,100	1,100
1808 (LIBAD) Stony Mtn. (BR; DL) *	33,120 (43,965; 22,400)	30,560 (23,005; 14,865)
Subtotal	309,080	227,150
Grand Total	1,462,317	1,026,208

* New Areas (14 Total)

BH = Beaverhead National Forest
BR = Bitterroot National Forest
C = Custer National Forest
DL = Deer Lodge National Forest
F = Flathead National Forest

G = Gallatin National Forest
H = Helena National Forest
K = Kootenai National Forest
LC = Lewis and Clark National Forest
LL = Lolo National Forest

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Governor Schwinden's
1984 Recommendations for Wilderness

Forest	Governor's Recommended Acreage	Page

BEAVERHEAD

1001 North Big Hole (BR)	34,100	3
1008 East Pioneer *	89,658	6
1943 West Big Hole *	79,300	9
1945 Italian Peaks *	12,907	12

BITTERROOT

1BAA Selway-BR Canyons	12,700	14
1061 Blodgett Canyon	9,600	18
1062 North Fork Lost Horse	7,800	20
1063 Trapper Creek	2,500	22
1064 Nelson Lake	2,900	24
M1845 Meadow Creek	12,600	26
1808 (LIBAD) Stony Mtn. (DL; LL) *	68,430	28

CUSTER

1362 Lost Water Canyon *	11,080	30

DEER LODGE

1426 Upper East Fork	5,000	32
1427 Storm Lake	7,620	34
1428/1429 Flint Range/Dolus Lake *	56,400	36
1609 Electric Peak (H) *	29,500	39

FLATHEAD

1482 Tuchuck (K) *	19,000	41
S1485 Jewel Basin *	15,360	43
A1485 Swan Front	64,000	45
1500 Mission Addition	960	48

GALLATIN

1545 Republic Mountain	480	50
1963 Lionhead *	24,500	52

HELENA

1610 Big Log	9,974	54
1617 Mount Baldy *	16,630	56

Forest	Governor's Recommended Acreage	Page
KOOTENAI		
1662 Scotchman Peaks *	46,115	58
1670 Cabinet Face West	6,886	61
1671 Cabinet Face East	17,357	63
1676 McKay Creek	6,081	65
1682 Chippewa Creek	2,100	67
LEWIS AND CLARK		
A1485 Choteau Mountain	39,040	69
F1485 Silver King-Falls Creek	42,240	71
F1485 Deep Creek	40,320	73
Q1485 Renshaw	36,480	75
LOLO		
1301 Hoodoo (Great Burn) *	91,600	77
A1485 Clearwater-Monture	67,000	79
1784 Cube Iron *	32,900	81
1805 Lolo Creek	3,990	83
1806 Welcome Creek Addition	1,100	85
Total Acreage	1,026,208	

* New Areas (14 Total)

BH = Beaverhead National Forest
BR = Bitterroot National Forest
C = Custer National Forest
DL = Deer Lodge National Forest
F = Flathead National Forest
G = Gallatin National Forest
H = Helena National Forest
K = Kootenai National Forest
LC = Lewis and Clark National Forest
LL = Lolo National Forest

NORTH BIG HOLE - 1001

Forest: Beaverhead/Bitterroot
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 56,393 (53,073/3,320)
Recommended Wilderness Net Acres: 34,100(31,260/2,840)

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This area lies along the southern border of the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness and contains a number of tributaries to the Big Hole River. The Hell Roaring Creek area (B1001) was recommended for wilderness by the U.S. Forest Service. The area is generally comprised of gentle to moderately steep, timbered foothills bisected by glacial valleys with steep sidehills. Streams are meandering and willow lined with considerable beaver activity and fair trout fisheries. As a logical addition to the AP Wilderness, this area would increase the opportunity for wilderness experiences and would add ecological diversity to the AP system. The area is also important to preserve water quality of the Big Hole River which has both local and national significance to agricultural users, recreationists, and others.

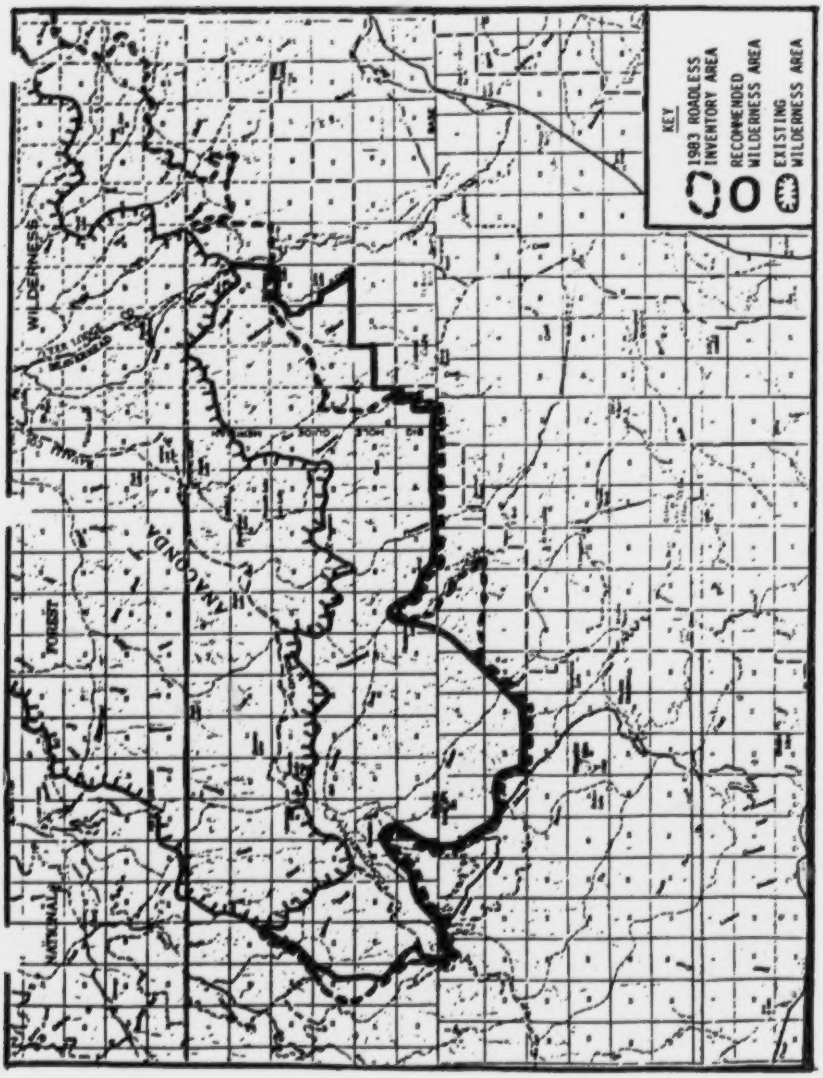
The area contains a large, free roaming elk population in addition to bear, deer, moose, wolverine and other wildlife, and there is a possibility for the existence of Rocky Mountain Grey Wolves. The uncommon Arctic Grayling occurs in Mussigbrod Creek.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Economic stands of timber are present in the Bender Creek area, around Mussigbrod Lake, and in the Clam Creek area. The numberous streams provide water to surrounding ranches for hay irrigation. There is some four wheel drive vehicle use at lower elevations and along jeep trails. The area, along with adjacent campgrounds at Pintlar and Mussigbrod Lakes, provides considerable recreation in the forms of hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and naturalist hobbies.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The roadless area boundary was adjusted to reduce timber conflicts and to eliminate illogical boundary extensions south of Mussigbrod Lake, in the Johnson Creek area, and on the Bitterroot NF portion. Roadless areas east of Pintlar Creek were not recommended for wilderness because of timber and grazing values, and low wilderness attributes. Between McCormick Creek and Thompson Creek the recommended wilderness boundary follows the national forest boundary and McCormick Creek excluding private land northwest of Lion Lake. This area, which was not part of the 1983 roadless inventory, includes the disputed "Howell Creek Road" built for the proposed Howell Creek timber sale. General public and local support favored including this area into the wilderness system. It is recommended that the Howell Creek Road be allowed to reclaim naturally or be used as trail for non-motorized use.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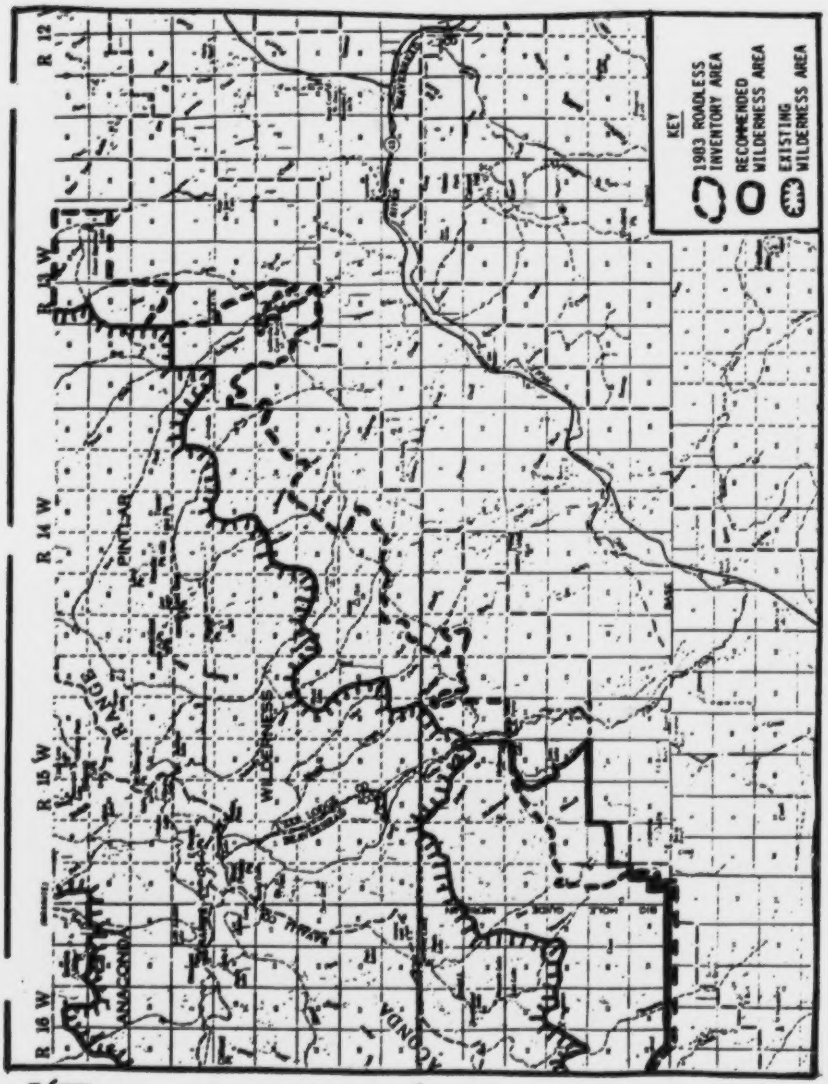
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RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

EAST PIONEER ROADLESS AREA - 01008

Forest: Beaverhead
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 93,859
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 89,658

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES

The East Pioneer Roadless Area is located in southwestern Montana approximately 50 miles southwest of Butte.

The East Pioneer Mountain range is a strongly glaciated range comprised of steep cirque headwalls, rocky cirque basins with over 30 lakes, high rugged peaks and glacial trough valleys. The core of the range contains unique reservoirs of topography, culture and ecosystems.

This area is one of the outstanding candidates for wilderness designation and has widespread support for inclusion in the wilderness system.

The area has spectacular scenic beauty, a diversity of topography and ecosystems, ample opportunities for solitude and offers a wide spectrum of recreation opportunities.

II. RESOURCE VALUES

The area contains numerous varieties of rare and endangered wildlife and fishes. Golden trout and arctic grayling are found in some of the lakes. Mountain goat, sheep, deer, elk, moose, black bear and numerous non-game animals are found throughout the area.

Numerous and diverse recreation opportunities are to be found in the roadless area. These include hunting, hiking, fishing, mountain climbing, horseback riding and cross-crounty skiing.

The most significant effect of a wilderness designation would be on the hardrock mineral industry. The area has a high degree of mineralization and evidence of mining activity can be found in the area, particularly along the eastern slopes.

Timber resources in the area display a wide variation in site potential and are not presently in the forest's timber base because of the Forest Service recommendation for wilderness in RARE II.

Many lower elevation meadows found in the roadless area are contained in grazing allotments, but the higher, steeper areas are outside allotments.

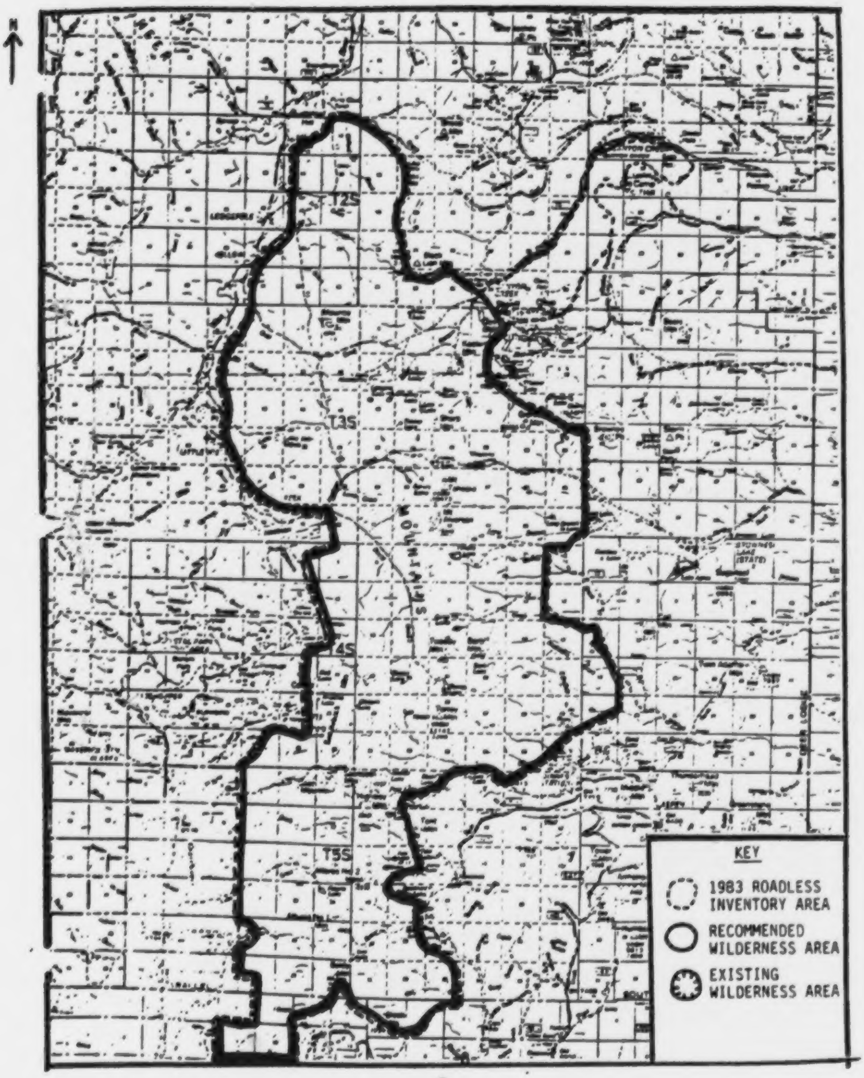
There is motorized recreation use in the area in the form of off-road vehicle use in the summer and snowmobile use in the winter.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE

The recommended wilderness boundary includes areas A1-008, B1-008, C1-008, D1-008, E1-008 and F1-008 as found in the 1983 Roadless Area Evaluation prepared by the Beaverhead National Forest.

The recommended wilderness also corresponds to the 1978 RARE II roadless area with the exception that the long narrow arm on the eastside that extends to Ore Camp Hill is truncated to make a more manageable boundary.

The Forest Service and Governor Judge both recommended wilderness for this area in the RARE II process.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1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

WEST BIG HOLE ROADLESS AREA - 01943

Forest: Beaverhead
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 130,511
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 79,300

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES

The West Big Hole Roadless Area is located in the Bitterroot Mountain Range southwest of Wisdom. The Montana/Idaho border forms its western boundary.

The area contains a diversity of topographic and vegetative features. High mountain peaks and glacial lake basins that lie above timberline characterize that portion of the area adjacent to the Idaho border. Mid-elevation slopes are generally forested on the eastern portion of the area. The southern portion of the area is generally rolling country with broad U-shaped canyons and wet marshy potholes but also contains some steep canyons.

The area contains some of the most spectacular scenic beauty among all the Forest Service roadless areas. It also serves as a very important watershed area for the nationally famous Big Hole River.

II. RESOURCE VALUES

The areas outstanding scenic beauty and diversity of recreation opportunities make it popular for primitive recreationists. The area provides an excellent small-stream fishery and important habitat for mountain goat, moose, deer and elk and numerous non-game species.

Timber resources in the proposed wilderness are minimal and would be generally uneconomical to harvest due to the topography and high cost of roading.

There is also past and present mineral production in the area for gold, silver, lead, zinc and copper. The Ajax Mine in the core of the area is about to go into full development and production.

Livestock grazing allotments occur in the B1-943 and C1-943 portions of the proposed wilderness and numerous range improvements are found in the lower foothills of these areas.

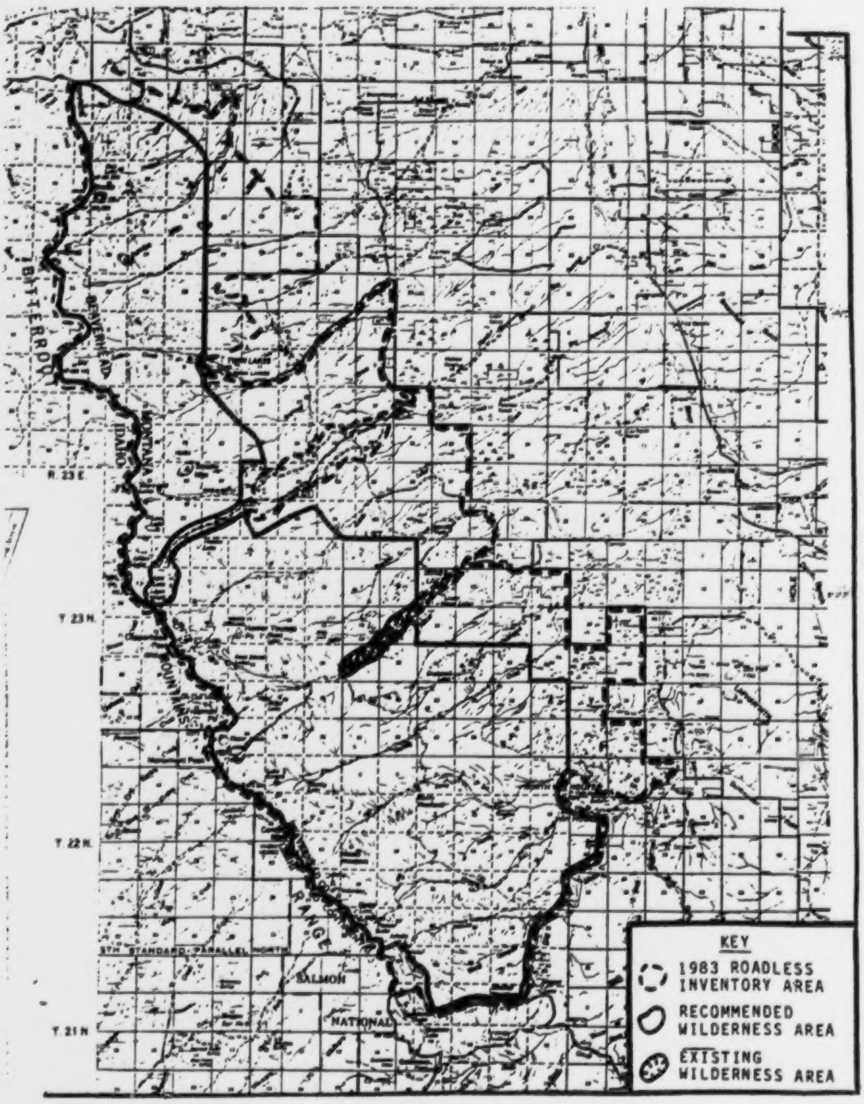
Some snowmobile use occurs in the lower elevations of the proposed area.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE

The proposed wilderness boundary includes all of area I1-943 as inventoried in the 1983 Beaverhead Roadless Area Evaluation with the exception of a cherry stem in the center of the area to exclude the road, buildings and mine site of the Ajax Mine. The proposed boundary also includes all of area C1-943 and a portion of area B1-943.

The core of the area - I1-943 is largely the "rocks and ice" terrain that characterizes many existing wildernesses. The intent in including C1-943 and portions of B1-943 is to add topographic and vegetative diversity to the area by including lower slope foothills and generally.rolling country with broad canyons and wet, marshy potholes.

The Carter Administration proposed the I1-943 core area for wilderness designation and Governor Judge proposed a 109,000 acre area for backcountry desgination in the initial RARE II process. Congressman Pat Williams has made a concerted effort in the past to have a portion of this area designated as wilderness also.


BITTERROOT
BEAVERHEAD
MONTANA
IDAHO
MOUNTAINS
RANGE
SALMON
NATIONAL
R. 23 E.
T. 23 N.
T. 22 N.
T. 21 N.
5TH STANDARD PARALLEL NORTH
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

ITALIAN PEAKS ROADLESS AREA - 01945

Forest: Beaverhead
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 90,642
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 12,907

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES

The Italian Peaks Roadless Area is located approximately 25 miles west of Lima. It is the very southwest corner of the State.

This area contains the headwaters of Nicholia and Deadman Creeks, which occupy a large cirque basin surrounded on three sides by the Continental Divide. Italian Peak at 10,998 feet is the highest point in the roadless area.

The area contains high values for both solitude and primitive recreation. The area contains large slopes with impressive geological formations of faults, overlays and cliffs that offer panoramic views of adjacent valleys.

II. RESOURCE VALUES

The area provides mountain goat habitat and summer range for elk.

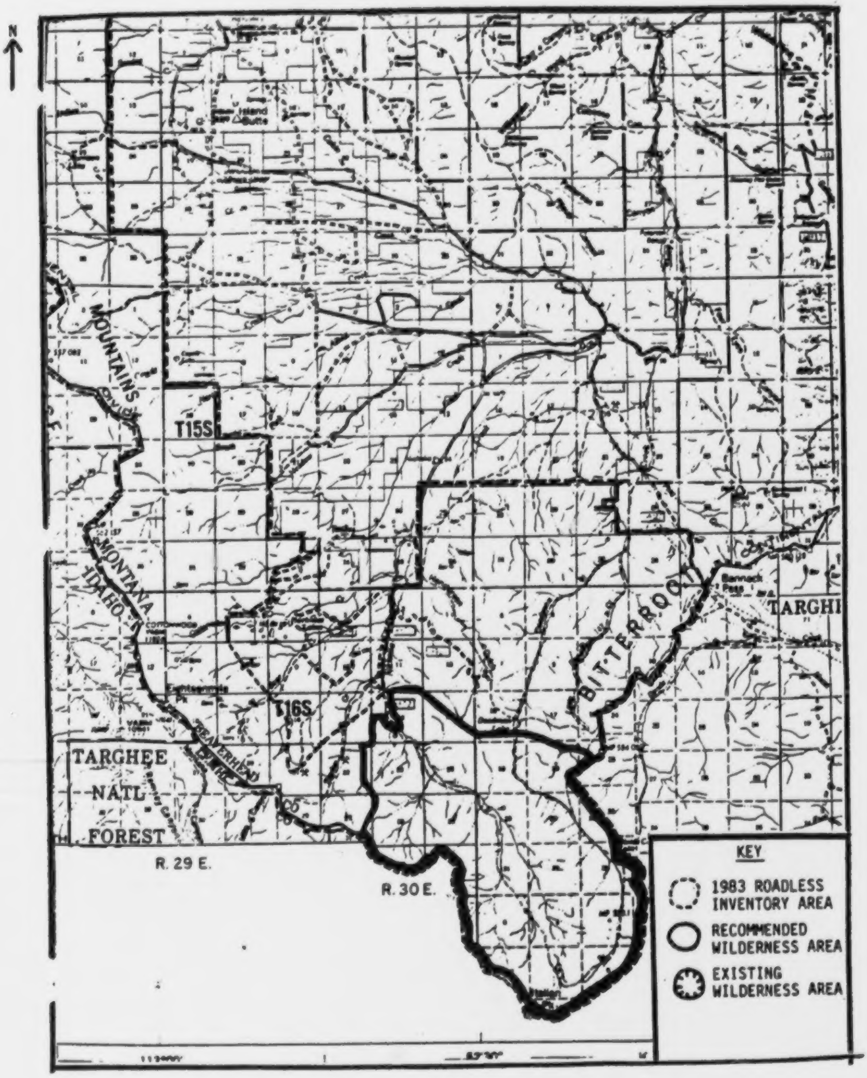
The potential for recreation use is high, although present use is low. This is due to the sparse population in the surrounding area and the fact that the area isn't well known among primitive and semi-primitive recreationists.

Wilderness classification would have little impact on other uses except minerals. The entire area is leased for oil and gas with appropriate wilderness study stipulations.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE

The recommended wilderness boundary coincides with the 1983 Roadless Area Evaluation boundary for area I-1945.

The Carter Administration recommeded this area for wilderness in the initial RARE II process.


N
MOUNTAINS
T15S
MONTANA
IDAHO
T16S
BEAVERHEAD
TARGHEE
NATL
FOREST
R. 29 E.
R. 30 E.
BITTERROOT
Bannack Pass
TARGHI
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

SELWAY-BITTERROOT CANYONS - S1BAA

Forest: Bitterroot
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 12,700
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 12,700

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

These nine canyon mouths are additions to the Selway-Bitteroot Wilderness. All are highly scenic, characterized by massive granite cliffs and clear, rushing mountain streams. Mountain goats winter in these areas. Recreation use is high, including hiking, fishing, rock-climbing, hunting and ski touring.

The canyons received a very high Wilderness Attribute Rating Score during RARE II (26).

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

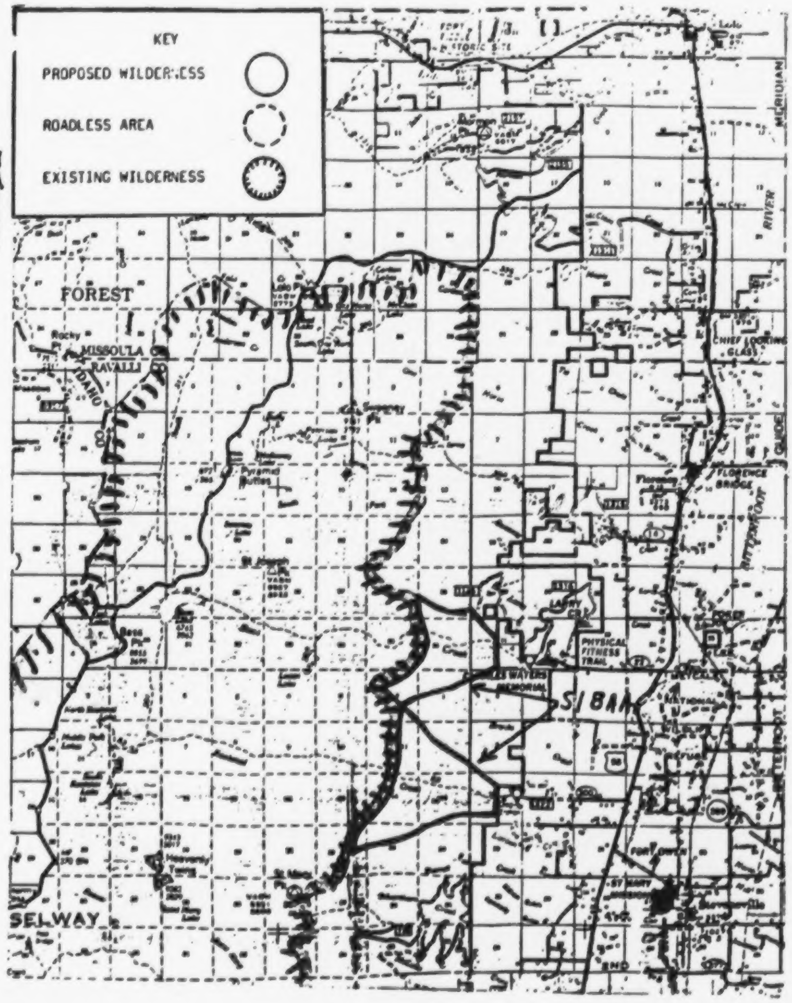
Timber resources are confined to narrow streamside strips and very steep slopes. This timber was not included in the Bitterroot Forest regulated timber base.

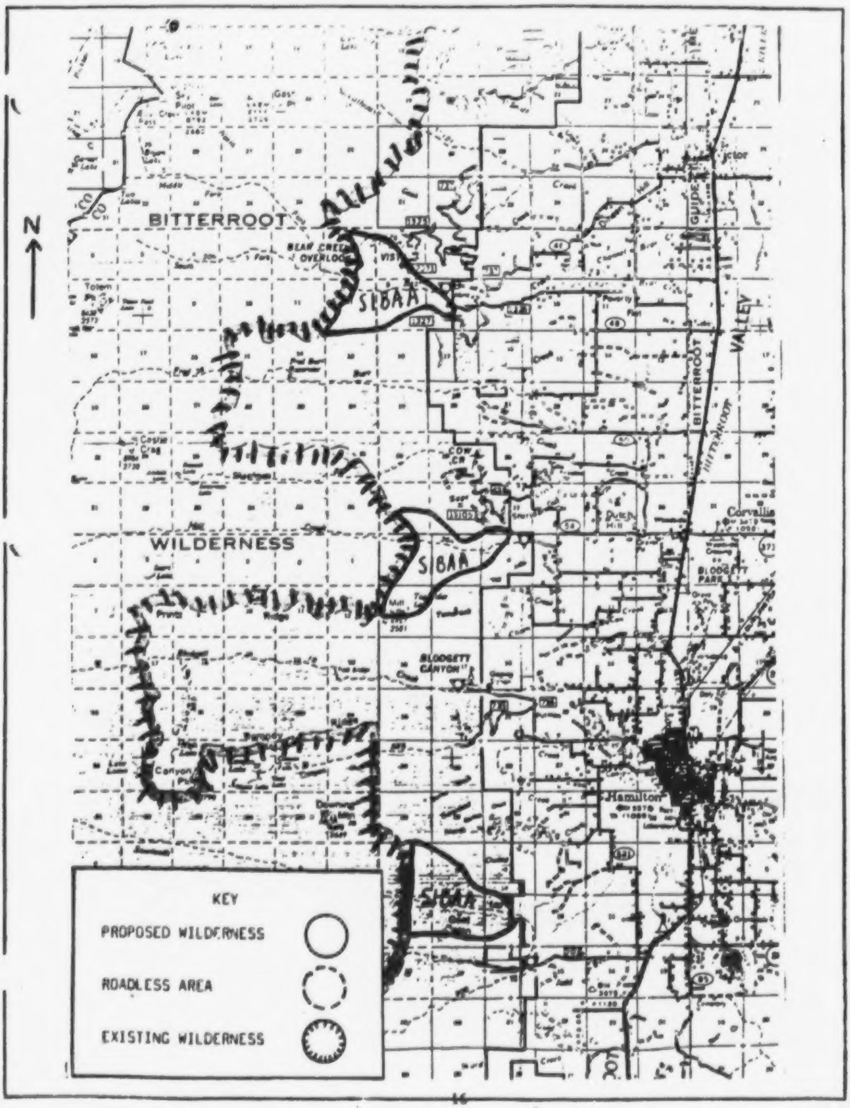
The canyons have low oil and gas and mineral potential.

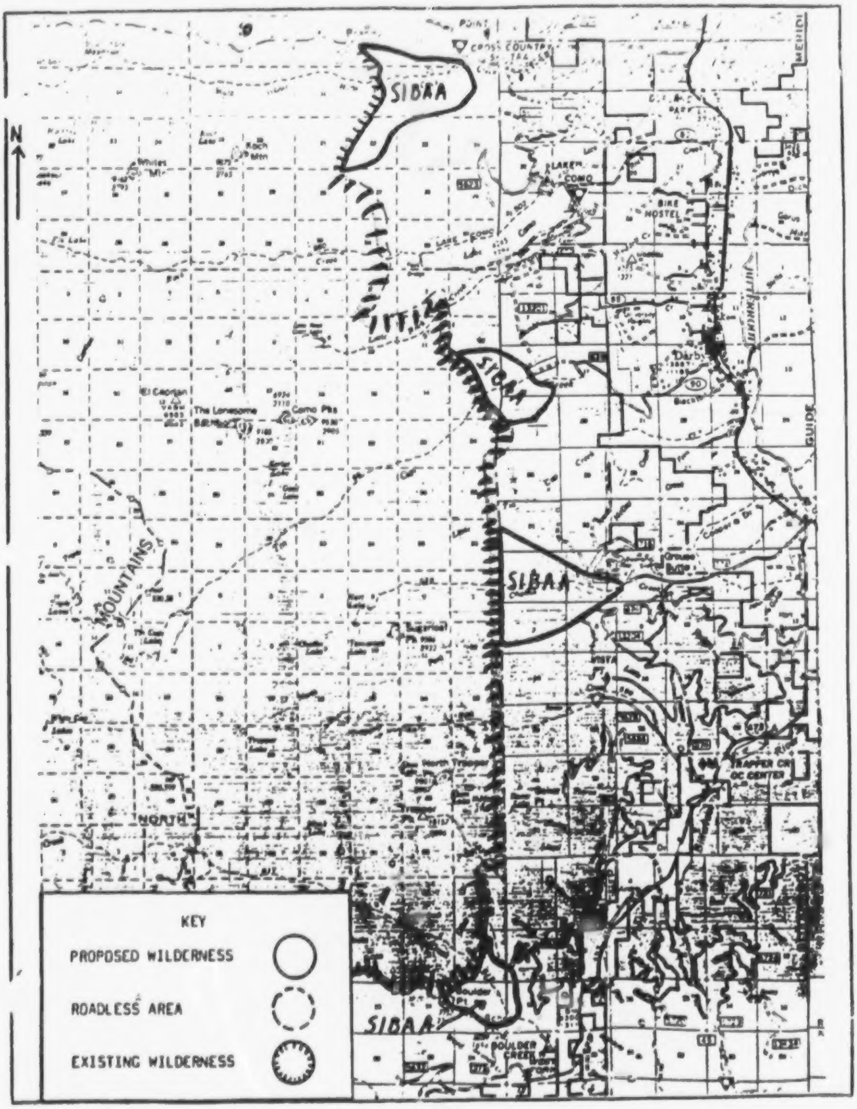
Wildlife and fishery resources are high. Sizable populations of elk, mule deer, mountain goats and bighorn sheep are present as well as a variety of nongame species.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

These additions would provide an improved boundary to the Selway-Bitterroot by following topographic features to a greater extent. The proposed boundaries follow wilderness recommendations by the Forest Service (RARE II) and by Governor Judge, 1978.


KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS
N
FOREST
MISSOULA
RAVALLI
IDAHO
SELWAY
RIVER
MERIDIAN
CHIEF LOOKING GLASS
FLORENCE BRIDGE
BITTERROOT
Pyramid Buttes
PHYSICAL FITNESS TRAIL
NATIONAL
FORT OWEN
SIBA


N
BITTERROOT
WILDERNESS
BEAR CREEK OVERLOOK
SIBAA
SIBAA
SIBAA
COW CR
BLODGETT CANYON
BLODGETT PARK
Corvallis
Hamilton
Victor
BITTERROOT
VALLEY
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS


N
SIBAA
SIBAA
SIBAA
SIBAA
POINT
CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL
LAKE COMO
BIKE HOSTEL
Darby
El Capitan
The Lonesome Bachelor
Como Pks
MOUNTAINS
NORTH
TRAPPER CR OC CENTER
BOULDER CREEK
GUIDE
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS

BLODGETT CANYON - 01061

Forest: Bitterroot
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 9,600
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 9,600

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This proposed addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness consists of a spectacular canyon about four miles west of Hamilton. Blodgett is a classic glaciated valley with steep cliffs and many cirques and avalanche chutes.

Blodgett Canyon has been used as defacto wilderness for years. Hiking, rock climbing, fishing, hunting and ski touring are important uses. It is a major pathway into the Selway-Bitterroot.

This area received a very high (26) Wilderness Attribute Rating Score during RARE II.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

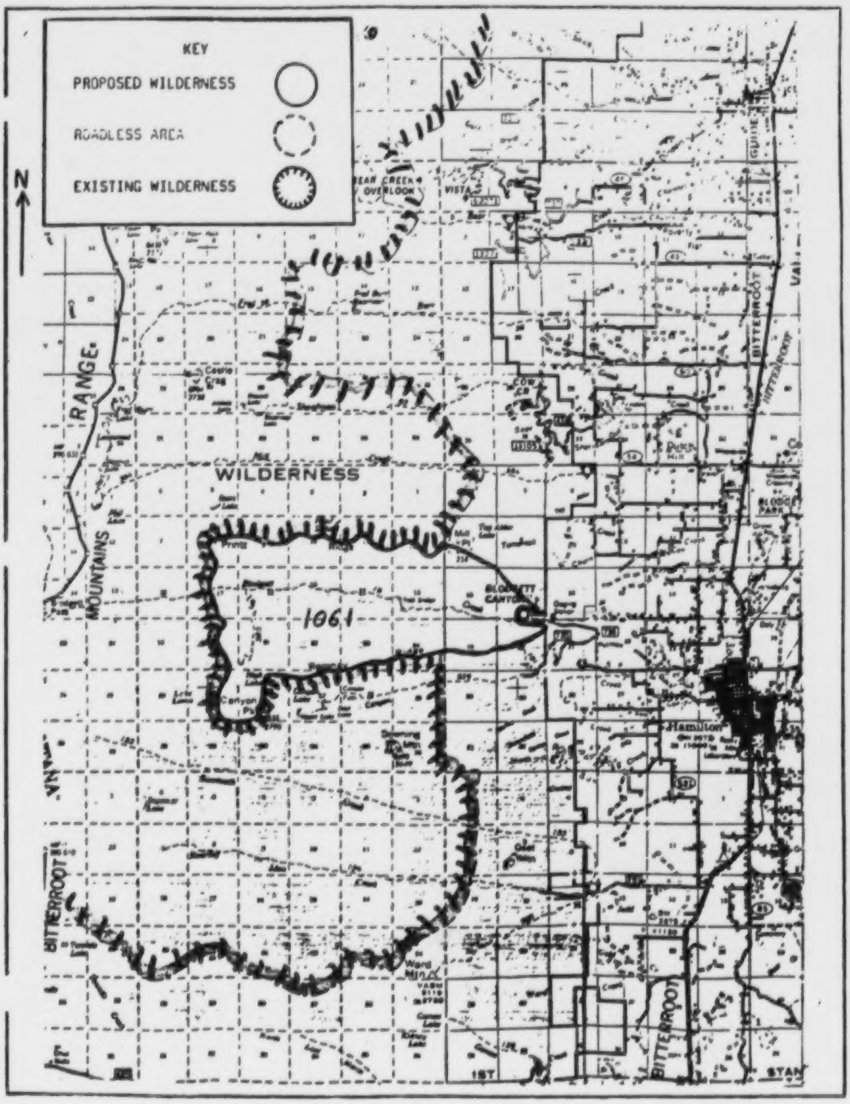
Timber is confined to narrow streamside strips and very steep, rocky slopes. This timber was not included in the Bitterroot Forest regulated timber base.

Mineral and oil and gas potential is low.

Scenic, wildlife and recreation values are very high. A variety of game and non-game wildlife species inhabit the area. The granite cliffs provide some of the best technical rock climbing in western Montana.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary corresponds to the RARE II boundary recommended by the Forest Service (1979), Governor Judge (1978) and the Ad Hoc Committee on Forest Resources (1983)


KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS
N
BEAR CREEK OVERLOOK
VISTA
RANGE
WILDERNESS
MOUNTAINS
BITTERROOT
1061
BLODGETT CANYON
Canyon
Hamilton
COW CR.
BITTERROOT
GUIDE
BLODGETT PARK
Ward Mtn.
BITTERROOT
1ST
STAN

NORTH FORK LOST HORSE - 01062

Forest: Bitterroot
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 7,800
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 7,800

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area contains two glaciated hanging valleys. Both are very rugged and steep. Travel is consequently difficult in the area and use is light.

Wildlife values are high. Mountain goat viewing and hunting are major attractions.

Outstanding opportunities for solitude, rugged topography, and varied scenery make this area an outstanding wilderness candidate.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

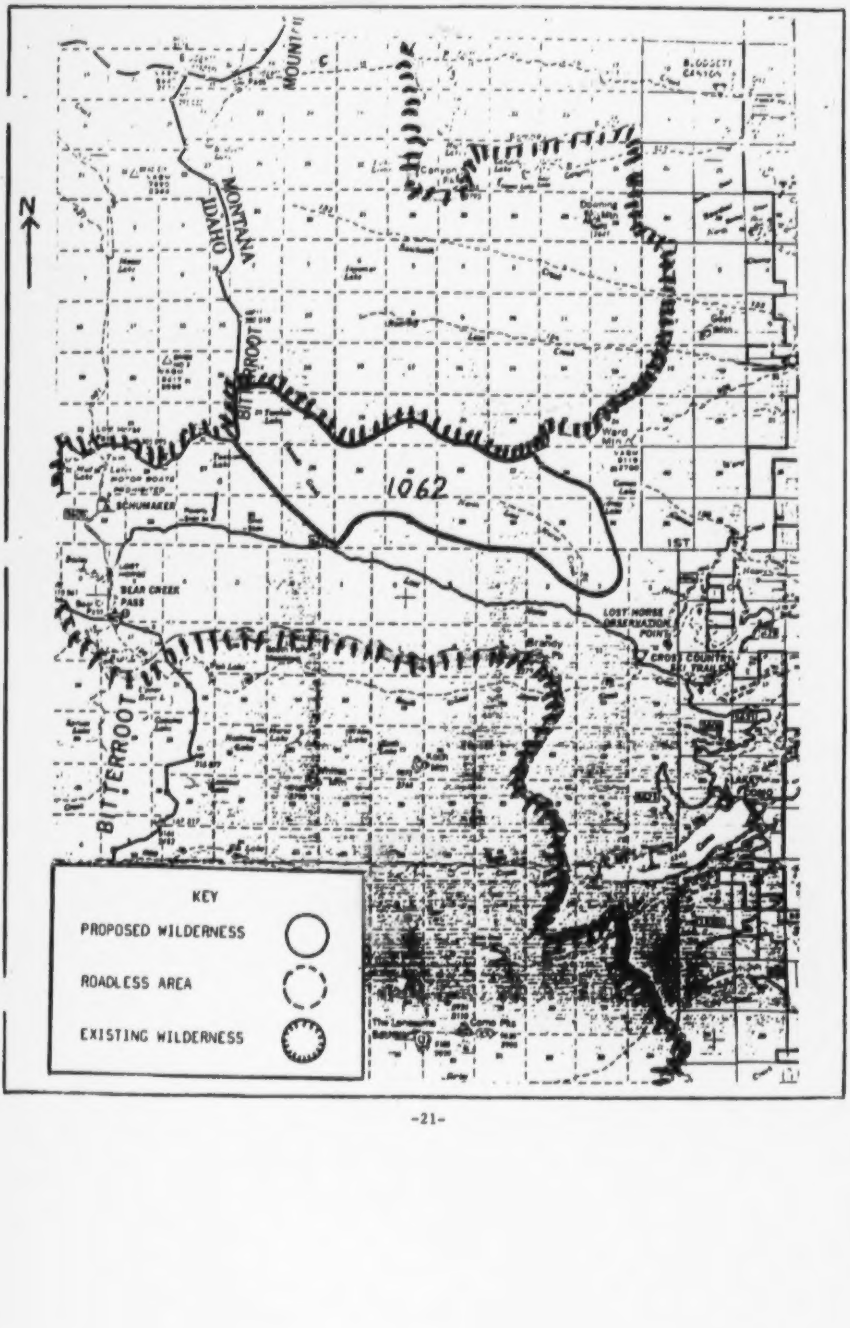
About 22 percent of the area is forest land. Most of this is isolated by steep, rugged topography and could contribute little to the economical timber base.

Mineral, as well as oil and gas potential is low in this area.

Wildlife and recreation resources are outstanding. Mountain goats and a variety of other game and non-game species are present. Rock climbing and mountaineering opportunities are exceptional.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary follows topographic features to the extent possible and corresponds to that recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service (1979), Governor Judge (1978), the Ad Hoc Committee on Forest Resources (1983) and WETA (1983).


N
MONTANA
IDAHO
BITTERROOT
MOUNTAINS
BLODGETT CANYON
Canyon Pk
Downing Mtn
Ward Mtn
1062
SCHUMAKER
BEAR CREEK PASS
LOST HORSE OBSERVATION POINT
CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS
1ST
BITTERROOT
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS

TRAPPER CREEK - 01063

Forest: Bitterroot
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 2,500
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 2,500

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area is characterized by rugged, glaciated canyons and steep granite cliffs.

Wildlife resources are a major attraction; hunting, fishing and mountain goat viewing are major activities in the area.

Rock climbing and backpacking attract recreationists during the summer months.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

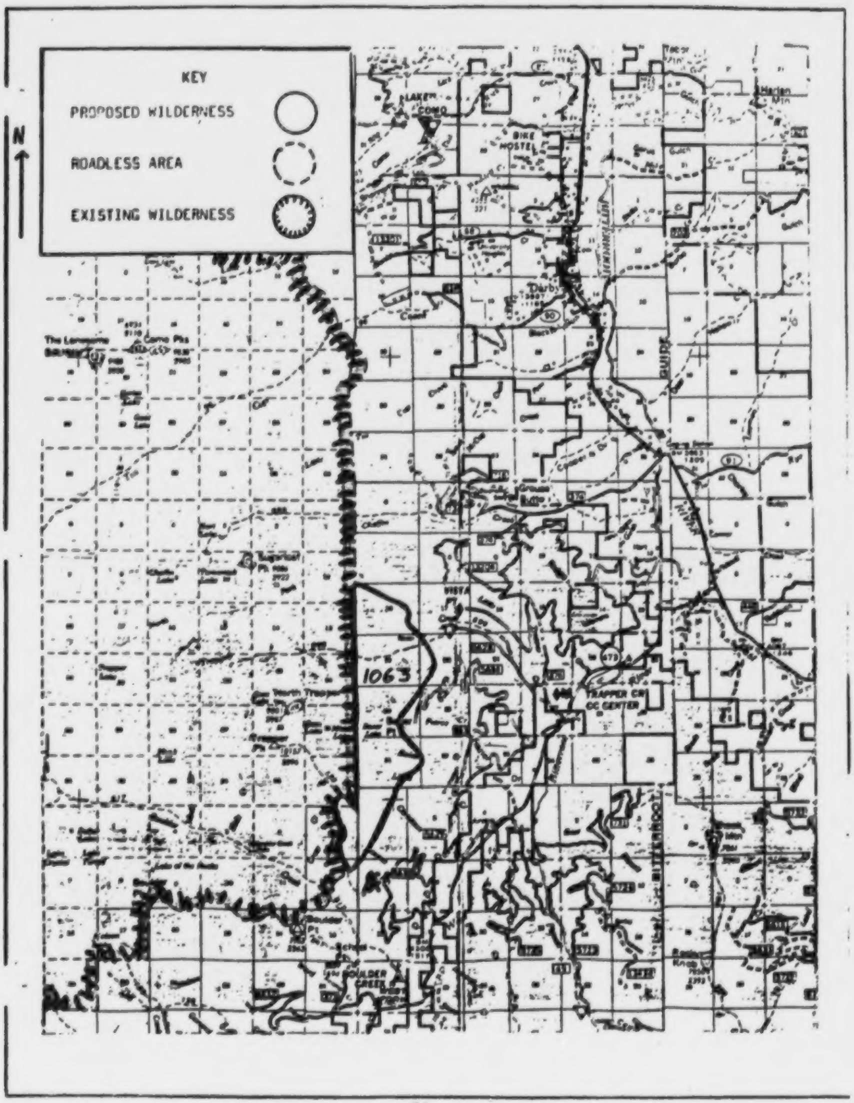
Timber resources occur in stringers on steep slopes and along streams. Road building would be difficult and expensive.

Mineral and oil/gas potentials are low.

Wildlife and recreation resources are outstanding. A variety of game and nongame species inhabit the area and the exceptional scenery attracts recreationists year-round. The area is adjacent to the spectacular Trapper Peak which has long been heavily used by mountaineers.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary follows topographic features to the extent possible and corresponds to the boundary recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service (1979), and the Ad Hoc Committee on Forest Resources (1983).


KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS
N
LAKE COMO
Darby
VISTA
1063
TRAPPER CR CC CENTER
BOULDER CREEK
BITTERROOT
GUIDE

NELSON LAKE - 01064

Forest: Bitterroot
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 2,900
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 2,900

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness addition consists of rugged, glaciated canyons. Nelson Lake, formed by a massive landslide, is a major attaction.

Big game hunting and fishing opportunities reflect the importance of the varied fish and wildlife populations.

Rugged topography and alpine scenery attract recreationists to the several trails, which access the Selway-Bitterroot.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

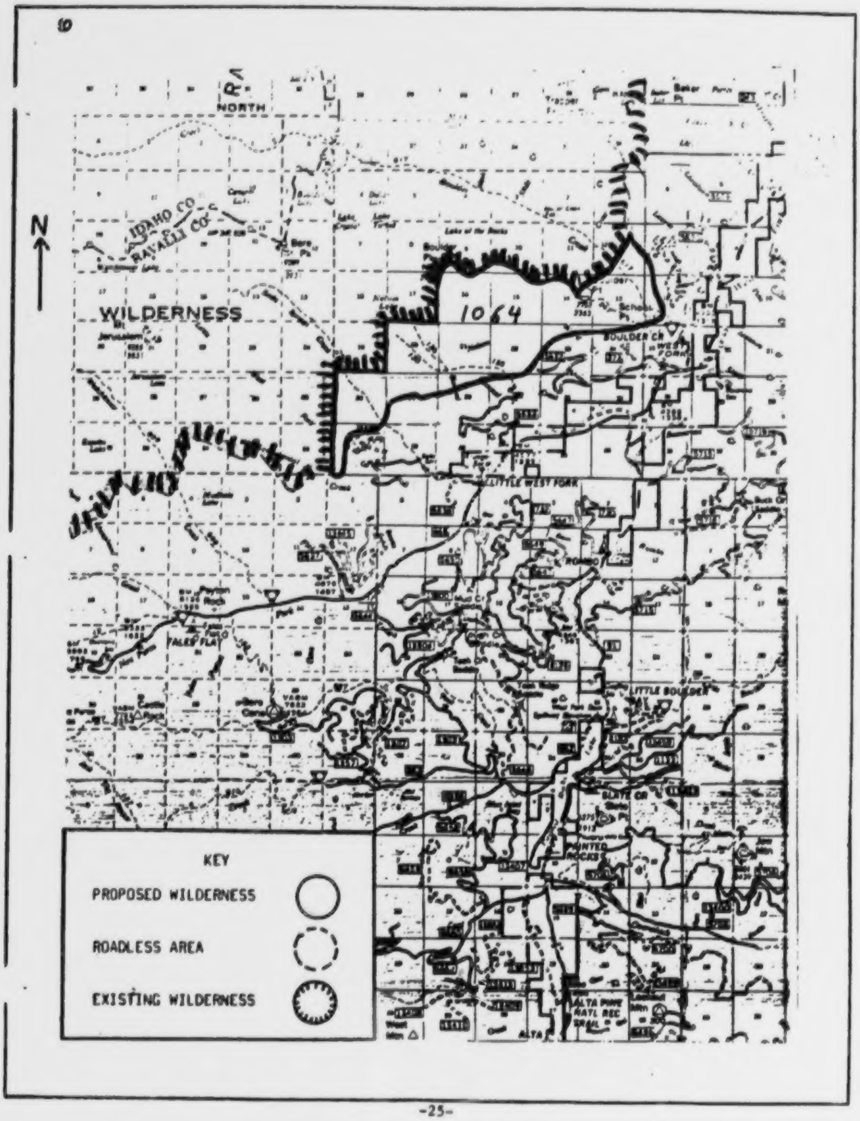
Timber occurs as isolated stringers on about one fourth of the area. Roads accessing this timber would be costly and difficult to build.

Mineral and oil/gas potentials are low.

Wildlife and wilderness values are very high. Mountain goats are a major attraction and the well known Trapper Peak, which has long been heavily used by mountaineers, can be viewed from the area.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary follows topographic features where possible and corresponds to that recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service (1979), Governor Judge (1978) and the Ad Hoc Committee on Forest Resources (1983).


10
N
NORTH
IDAHO CO
RAVALLI CO
WILDERNESS
1064
BOULDER CR
WEST FORK
LITTLE WEST FORK
LITTLE BOULDER
SLATE CR
PAINTED ROCKS
ALTA
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS

MEADOW CREEK - M1845

Forest: Bitterroot
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 12,600
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 12,600

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This proposed Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness addition is generally timbered, in contrast with other proposed additions to this wilderness area. Topography is rugged and steep, consisting of "V" shaped, steep-sided canyons.

Wildlife values are high. A band of 50-100 bighorn sheep winters in the area. Elk, mule deer, whitetails, mountain goats, moose, black bear and mountain lion, in addition to a variety of nongame species inhabit the area. Three commercial outfitters use the area during the hunting season. Backpacking and horseback riding are other major uses.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

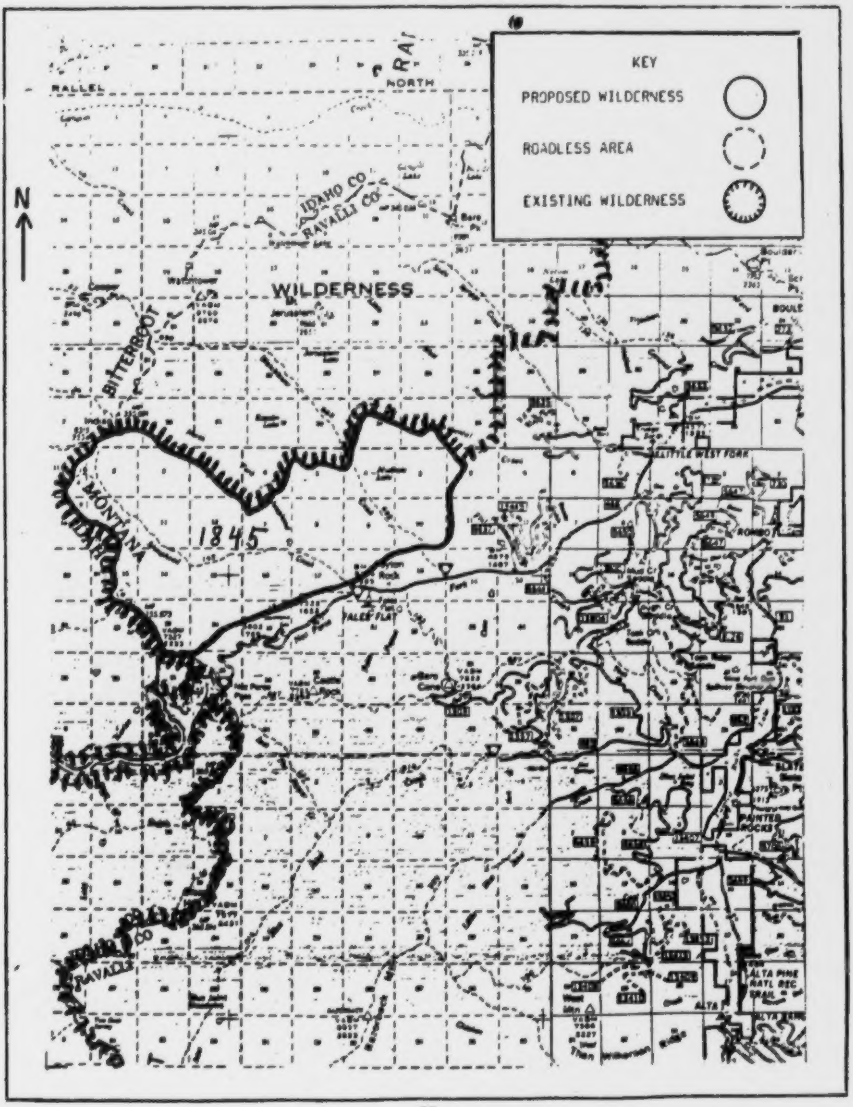
Commercial forestland occupies about 70 percent of the area, although economical harvest would not be possible on all of this, especially considering the erosive granite soils. Major tree species include douglas fir, ponderosa pine and lodgepole pine.

Little mineral or oil and gas potential exists.

As mentioned above, wildlife and recreation values are high.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary follows topographic features to the extent possible and corresponds with that recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service (1979).


KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS
N
NORTH
IDAHO CO.
RAVALLI CO.
WILDERNESS
BITTERROOT
MONTANA
1845
ALTA
PAINTED ROCKS
ALTA PINE NAT'L REC. TRAIL
LITTLE WEST FORK
RAVALLI CO.

STONY MOUNTAIN - 01808

Forest: Bitterroot, Lolo, Deer Lodge
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 101,500 (43,965/33,120/22,400)
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 68,430 (23,005/30,560/12,850)

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

The Stony Moutain roadless area straddles the Sapphire Mountain crest east of a line between Stevensville and Hamilton. The area is bounded by Rock Creek, a blue ribbon fishery, on the east side and overlooks the Bitterroot Valley to the west.

The area is characterized by rolling, forested topography interspersed with grassland parks and rocky areas.

Wildlife is the major attraction to the area which provides quality hunting in a roadless setting. A large elk herd, deer, moose, bear and mountain goats attract hunters. Fuse and Stony Lakes receive moderate fishing pressure. Artic grayling may be caught in Fuse Lake.

The Easthouse National Recreation trail traverses the area. The Palisades National Recreation trail accesses Burnt Fork Lake on the edge of the proposed wilderness area.

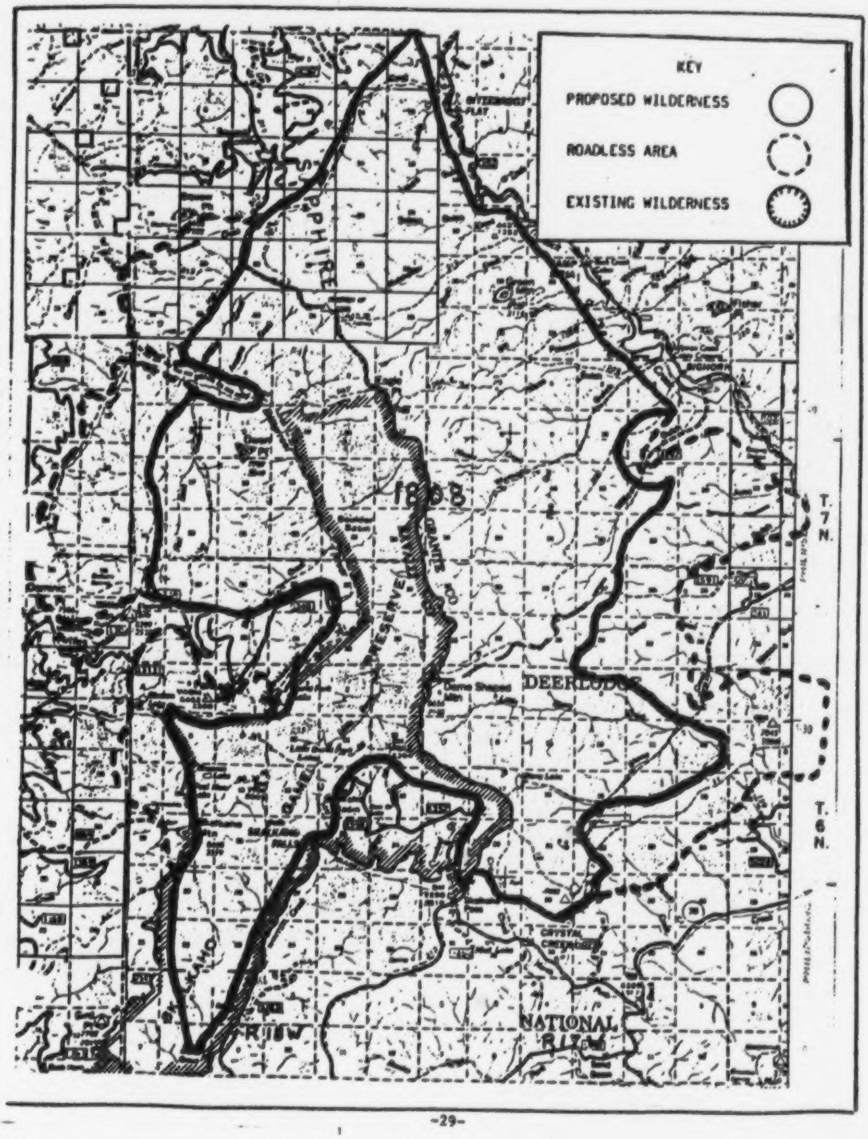
II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Timber values are very low on the Bitterroot and Lolo Forest portions of the area but the Deer Lodge Forest part has some of the best timber on that forest.

There are a few non-patented, inactive mining claims along the western boundary and a large block of placer gold and garnet claims on the east side of the Sapphire Divide in the middle of the Lolo Forest part of the area. A small part of one grazing allotment (36 AUM's) is found on the Deer Lodge Forest.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary has been adjusted (see map) to exclude the best timber sites on the Deer Lodge and Bitterroot Forests. This adjustment was made after consultation with Forest Service personnel on the Philipsburg Ranger District.


KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS
1808
DEERLODGE
NATIONAL
RESERVE
GRANITE CO
T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
R15W
CRYSTAL
BIGHORN

LOST WATER CANYON ROADLESS AREA - 01362

Forest: Custer
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 9,800
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 11,080

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

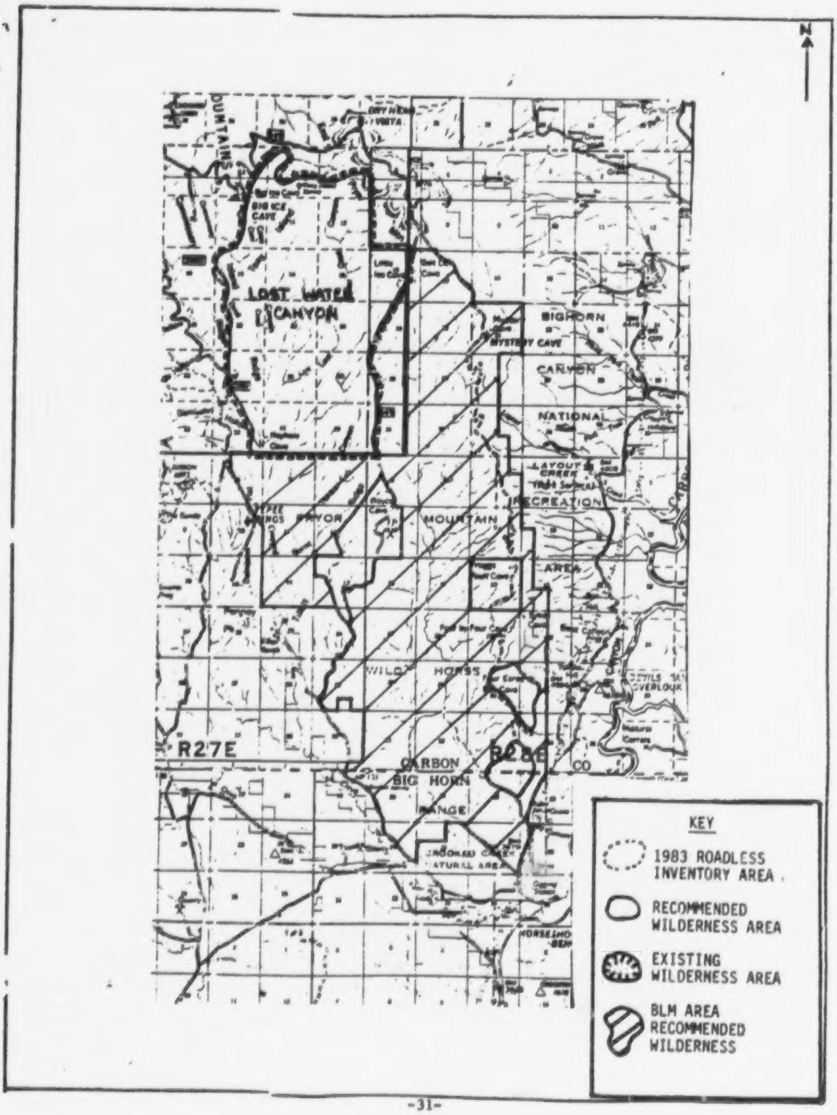
The Lost Water Canyon area is 45 miles south of Billings within the Pryor Mountains. The area is characterized by deeply incised, limestone canyons and is highly scenic. The area is adjacent to two proposed BLM wilderness areas. Because of the steep canyons, isolation, solitude, a primitive experience is achievable.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Allocation of this area to wilderness would have little effect on existing values or uses. Primitive recreational use is low, but the opportunity is high.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary has been expanded to include 1,280 adjacent acres on the east side. This segment, although separated from Lost Water Canyon by a road, is adjacent to and a logical addition to a proposed BLM Pryor Mountain wilderness to the east. Another BLM proposed wilderness, Burnt Timber Canyon is adjacent to Lost Water Canyon's along its southern boundary. Both BLM areas are recommended by BLM for wilderness and should be included in a Montana Wilderness Bill together with Lost Water Canyon. The three areas form one contiguous unit and should become a single wilderness area and be managed by one federal agency.


N
DRY HEAD VISTA
BIG ICE CAVE
LOST WATER CANYON
BIGHORN
MYSTERY CAVE
CANYON
NATIONAL
LAYOUT CREEK
RECREATION
AREA
PRYOR
MOUNTAIN
WILD HORSE
DEVILS CANYON OVERLOOK
R27E
R28E
CARBON
BIG HORN
RANGE
CO
CROOKED CREEK NATURAL AREA
HORSESHOE BEND
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
BLM AREA RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS

UPPER EAST FORK ROADLESS AREA - 1426

Forest: Deerlodge
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 7,650
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 5,000

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES

The Upper East Fork Roadless Area is located approximately 20 miles west of Anaconda. It is adjacent to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness.

The area provides very good opportunities for solitude with moderate topographical screening and excellent vegetative screening from off-site intrusions. The area makes an excellent addition of some lowlands to the existing wilderness and makes for a more manageable boundary.

II. RESOURCE VALUES

The area is principally used for hunting and backpacking. Dexter Basin is a popular walk-in hunting area and the East Fork Reservoir access provides a principal entrance to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness.

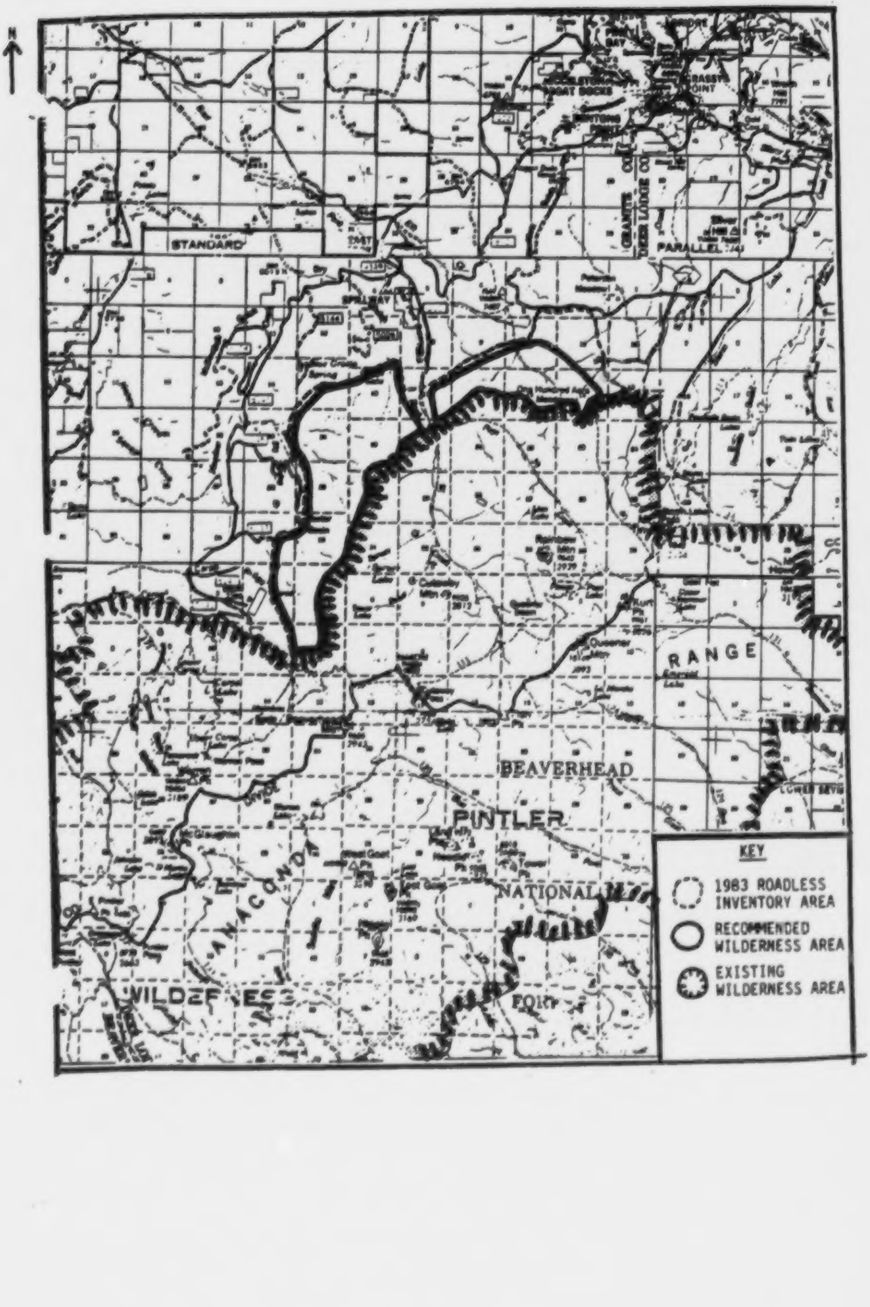
The area contains 1,841 acres of tentatively suitable timber with the majority of that figure being economically suitable.

The area is considered to have moderate mineral potential and low to moderate oil and gas potential.

Portions of two grazing allotments occur within the area.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE

The recommended wilderness boundary excludes the jeep trail that extends from East Fork Reservoir to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness boundary and generally attempts to make a more manageable boundary than the present wilderness boundary.


N
STANDARD
GRANITE CO
DEER LODGE CO
PARALLEL
RANGE
BEAVERHEAD
PINTLER
NATIONAL
ANACONDA
FOREST
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

STORM LAKE ROADLESS AREA - 1427

Forest: Deerlodge
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 7,620
Recommended Wilderness Area: 7,620

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES

The Storm Lake Roadless Area is located approximately 15 miles west of Anaconda. It is adjacent to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness.

The area is very rocky and contains several mountain lakes. Mount Evans is the highest point at 10,635 feet.

The area provides excellent opportunities for solitude and the area's wild character and pristine beauty have been preserved in a condition that is rare outside of classified wilderness.

II. RESOURCE VALUES

The area is rated very high for primitive recreation opportunities. Its natural qualities would make it a logical addition to the Anaconda-Pintlar Wilderness.

Timber in the area is considered uneconomical to harvest.

No livestock grazing occurs in the area.

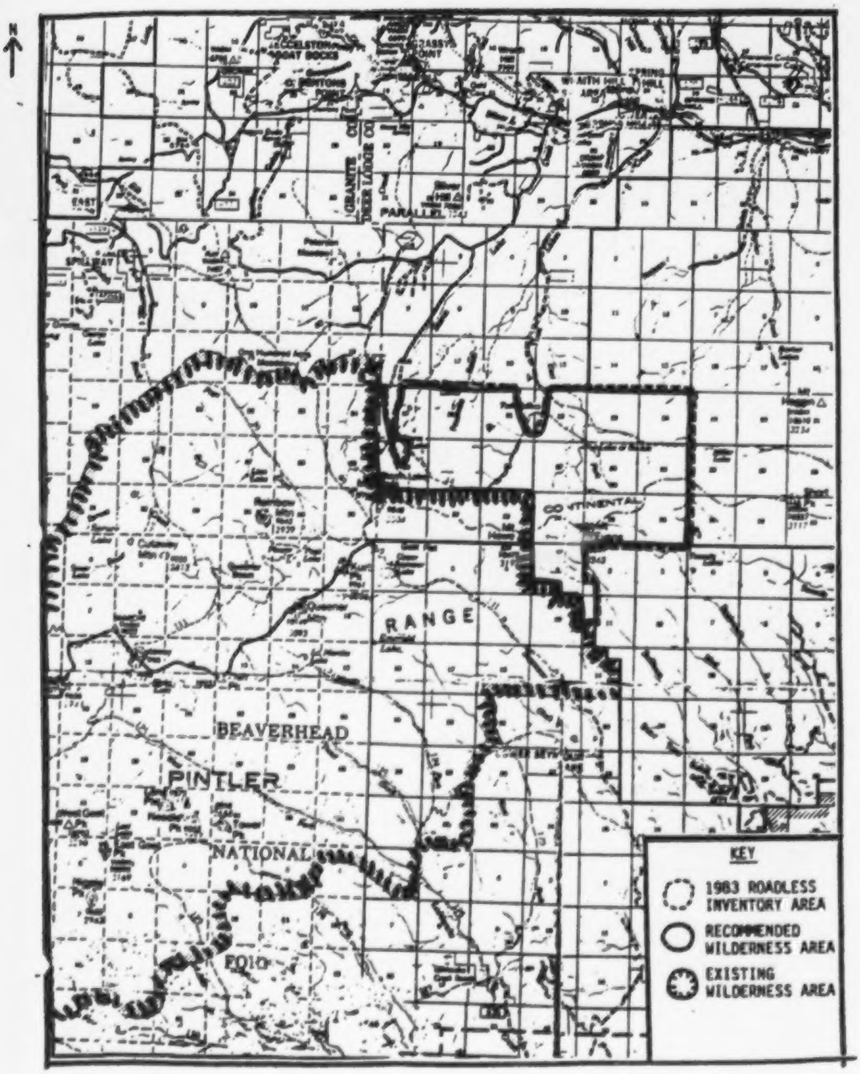
Mineral potential is low to moderate.

The area contains over 2000 acres of private land owned by the Anaconda Company.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE

The proposed boundary coincides with the Forest Service defined roadless area.

The Forest Service recommended this area for wilderness in the initial RARE II process.


N
ECCELSTON GOAT ROCKS
GRASSY POINT
SPRING HILL
GRANITE CO
DEER LODGE CO
PARALLEL
CONTINENTAL
RANGE
BEAVERHEAD
PINTLER
NATIONAL
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

FLINT RANGE/DOLUS LAKES ROADLESS AREA - 01428/01429

Forest: Deerlodge
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 62,210
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 56,400

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES

The Flint Range/Dolus Lakes roadless area is located in southwestern Montana approximately 10 miles west of Deer Lodge. It is rough mountainous country with over 25 lakes and five peaks over 9000 feet. One half of the area has vegetative cover and the other half is rock.

The area is an outstanding scenic area and provides many good opportunities for solitude. Evidence of man is scattered throughout the area however, in the form of early day mining activity and dams on some of the lakes. This area is the last remnant of unroaded land in a mountain range laced with evidence of mans activities.

II. RESOURCE VALUES

The area has a very high rating for primitive recreation opportunities. A diversity of opportunities resulting from a variety of habitat types, wildlife, streams and lakes are found.

Wilderness designation would have the largest impact on hardrock minerals, whose potential is rated high in the area. Mineralization present includes gold, silver, copper, moly and tungsten.

Approximately 45% of the area contains tentatively suitable timber, of which less than 20% is thought to be economically suitable to harvest.

Oil and gas potential is presently unknown.

Several lakes within or adjacent to the proposed boundary have dams on them and are used for irrigation purposes.

A portion of 1 grazing allotment is found within the area.

There is approximately 5000 RVD's of snowmobile use in the Racetrack Lake - Fisher Lake area on the southern border.

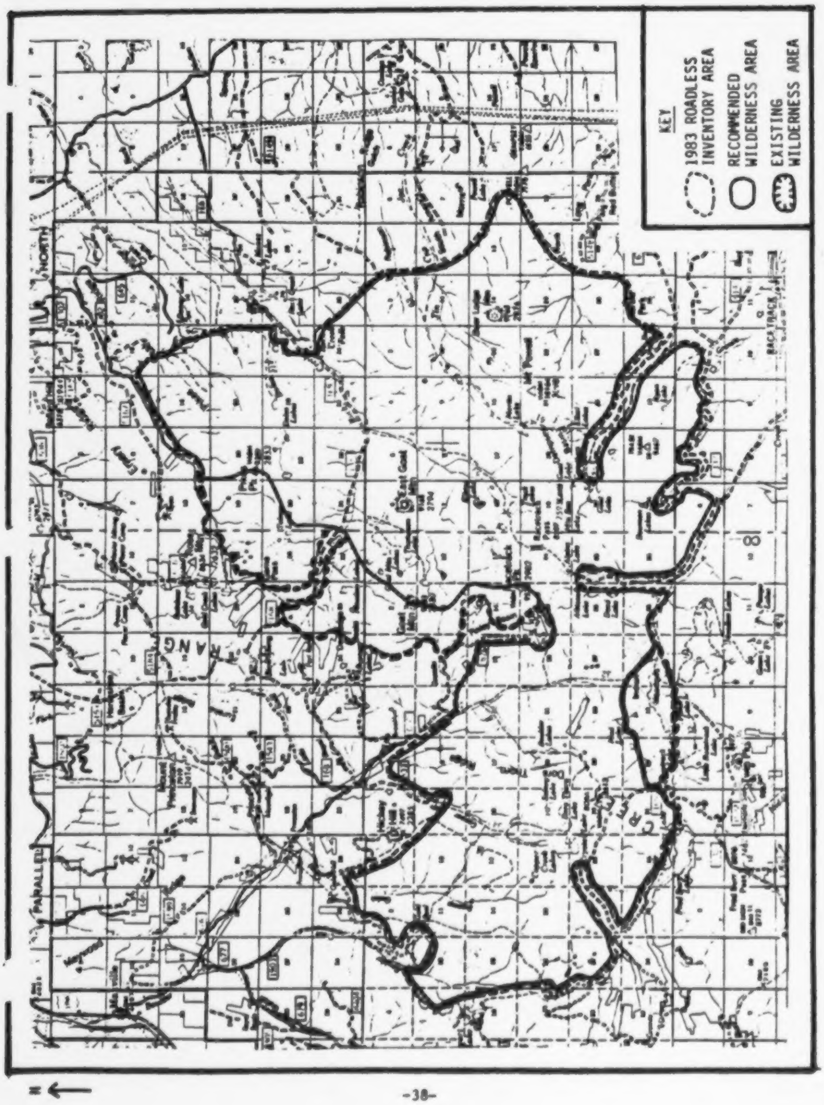
III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE

The proposed wilderness area boundary coincides with the Forest Service defined roadless area with two exceptions.

The southern boundary has been modified in the Racetrack Lake - Fisher Lake area to exclude the area of heavy snowmobile use.

The boundary has also been modified in the Finley Basin - Goat Mountain - Pikes Peak area to accomodate areas of high mineral potential.

Governor Judges recommendation in the original RARE II process was wilderness for the Flint Range (01428) and backcountry for Dolus Lakes (01429). The Forest Service recommended further planning for both areas.


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
NORTH
PARALLEL
RANG
CREEK
BACKTRACK
N

ELECTRIC PEAK - BLACKFOOT MEADOWS - 1609

Forest: Helena/Deer Lodge
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 46,028 (27,478/18,550)
Recommended Wilderness Net Acres: 29,500 (18,610/10,890)

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

The core of this area is the headwaters of the Little Blackfoot River and Blackfoot Meadows, a riparian meadow and the "land of 1000 beaver ponds." The Continental Divide with about 9 miles of divide trail runs through the southern portion, and several peaks exceed 8000 feet including Electric Peak, Thunderbolt Mountain, and Bison Mountain. Blackfoot Meadows is a popular hiking area with most activity occurring along the Little Blackfoot River trail which continues over the Continental Divide past Cottonwood Lake. Catchable size Cutthroat and Brook Trout occupy the Little Blackfoot River and Cottonwood Lake. Wildlife species include elk, mule deer, black bear, moose, grouse, and numerous non-game species.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

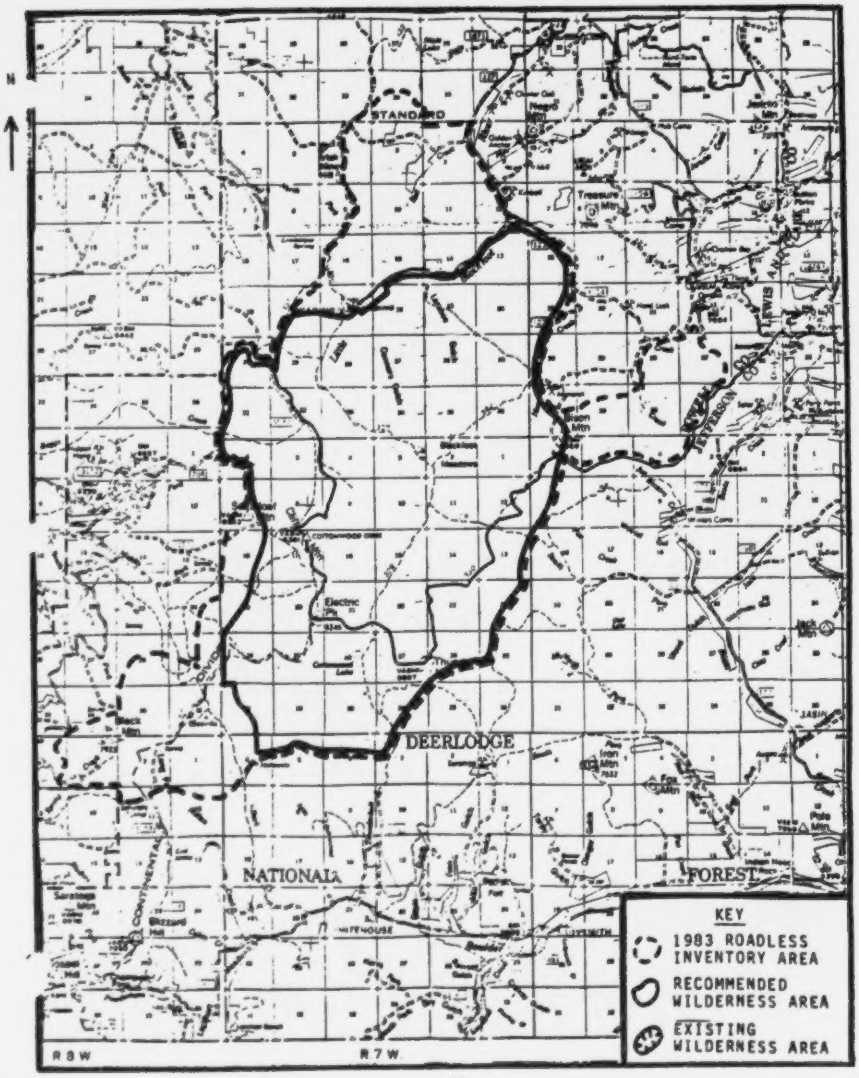
Mining for gold, silver and lead has occurred adjacent to the proposed wilderness which is considered to have moderate hardrock mineral and high placer potential. Timber production potential is rated as moderate. Portions of 4 grazing allotments are contiguous with the area.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

A northern boundary adjustment follows the Little Blackfoot River to just west of Kading Campground, excluding a piece of private land, and then follows topographic features to the western roadless area boundary. This adjustment excludes the well traveled Little Blackfoot River Road, Kading Campground, private land near Kading, snowmobile trails in the northern portion, and some productive timber areas including a proposed sale near Hat Creek.

An eastern boundary adjustment runs through Bison Mountain, thereby excluding a narrow arm of land that contains potentially salable timber and mining activity.

The western boundary was adjusted to follow topographic features and section lines through Section 6 (T6N, R7W) and Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31 (T7N, R7W). This excludes the old Leadville Mine, several jeep roads in the Black Mountain, Sugarloaf Mountain, and Leadville Mine areas, and portions of grazing allottments and associated improvements.


N
STANDARD
Treasure Mtn
LEWIS AND CLARK
JEFFERSON
Bison Mtn
Blackfoot Meadows
Electric Pk
Black Mtn
DEERLODGE
Iron Mtn
Jack Mtn
NATIONAL
FOREST
CONTINENTAL
Saratoga Mtn
Blizzard Hill
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
R 8 W
R 7 W

TUCHUCK - 01482

Forest: Flathead/Kootenai
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 19,820 (17,520/2,300)
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 19,000 (16,700/2,300)

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This remote area straddles the north end of the Whitefish Range, just south of the U. S. - Canada border and a few miles west of the North Fork of the Flathead River.

Tuchuck is characterized by steep, glaciated cirque basins carved in limestone bedrock unique to this part of the Whitefish Range. Limestone caves are an interesting feature of the area. Much of the area was burned in the 1910, 1917, and 1929 wildfires which resulted in open slopes producing rich crops of huckleberries and other important grizzly bear foods.

Views of Glacier National Park from the Tuchuck area are spectacular.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

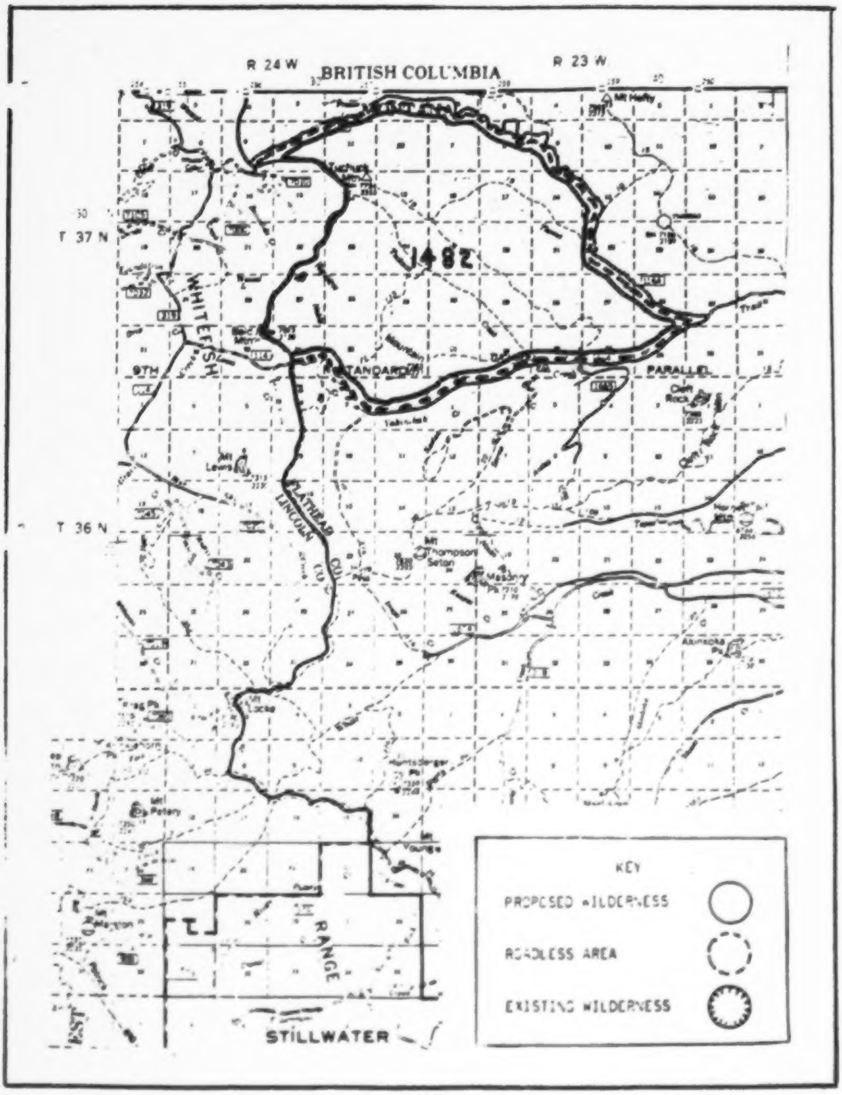
Timber productivity is low; wilderness designation would involve minimal timber conflicts.

Seismic data and the geologic structures present suggest a high potential for oil and gas in the area. No leases have been issued.

Wildlife and fishery values are extremely high. Tuchuck represents some of the best grizzly bear and gray wolf habitat in Northwestern Montana and is considered to be very important for the recovery of these species. Streams draining the area are critical to spawning bull trout and support native cutthroat trout. The area supports an elk herd and is known for its trophy mule deer.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The proposed boundary generally follows the Forest Service 1983 roadless inventory boundary. It has been drawn back from the Trail Creek Road somewhat to accommodate snowmobile and timber interests.


R 24 W
BRITISH COLUMBIA
R 23 W
T 37 N
T 36 N
WHITEFISH
49TH
STANDARD
PARALLEL
FLATHEAD
LINCOLN
CO.
Mt Thompson Seton
Mt Locke
RANGE
STILLWATER
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS

JEWEL BASIN - S 1485

Forest: Flathead
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 68,569
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 15,360

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

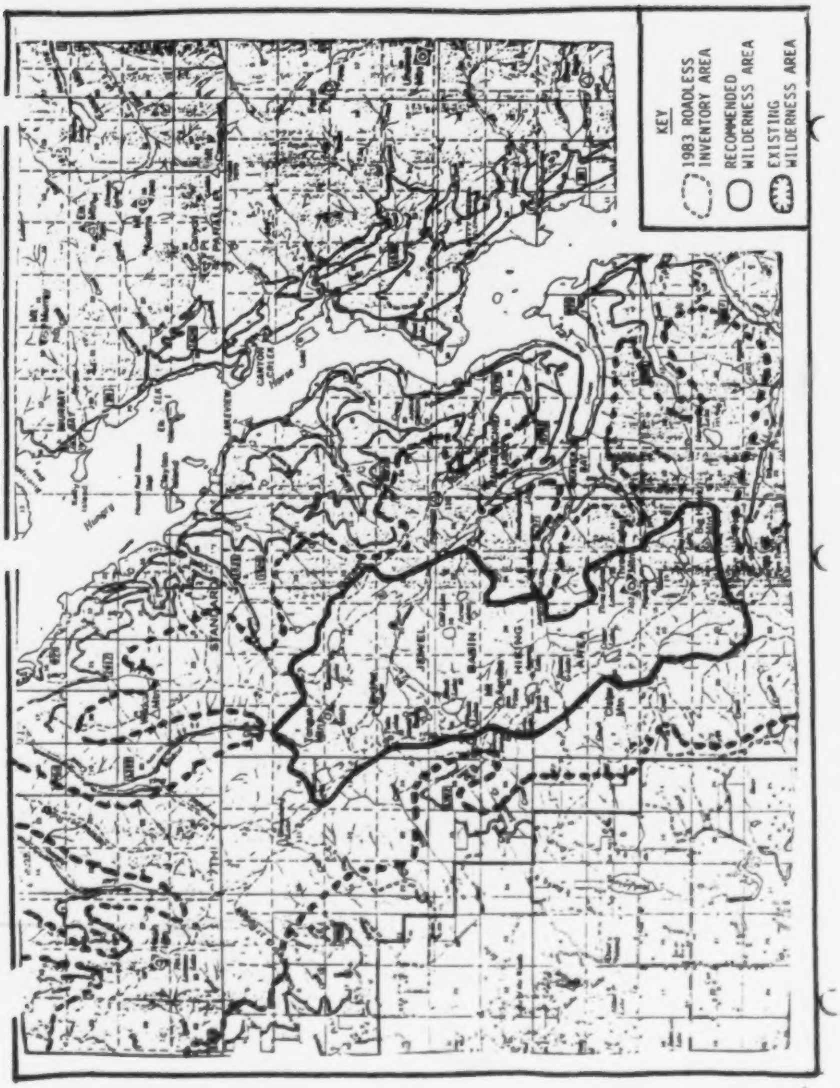
It is recommended that the Jewel Basin hiking area be classified as wilderness. The exceptional qualities of this lake-studded alpine area have long been recognized. It includes 28 lakes, numerous streams, rocky peaks, lush meadows and rich alpine vegetation. It deserves as much protection as the law can extend.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Since it is already managed for primitive recreation, conflicts are minimal. Oil and gas leases have been issued on a no-surface occupancy basis.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundaries would be consistent with the existing hiking area.


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
JEWEL BASIN HIKING AREA
STANDARD
LAKEVIEW
PARALLEL
CANYON CREEK

SWAN FRONT - A 1485

Forest: Flathead/Lolo
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres:
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 64,000

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

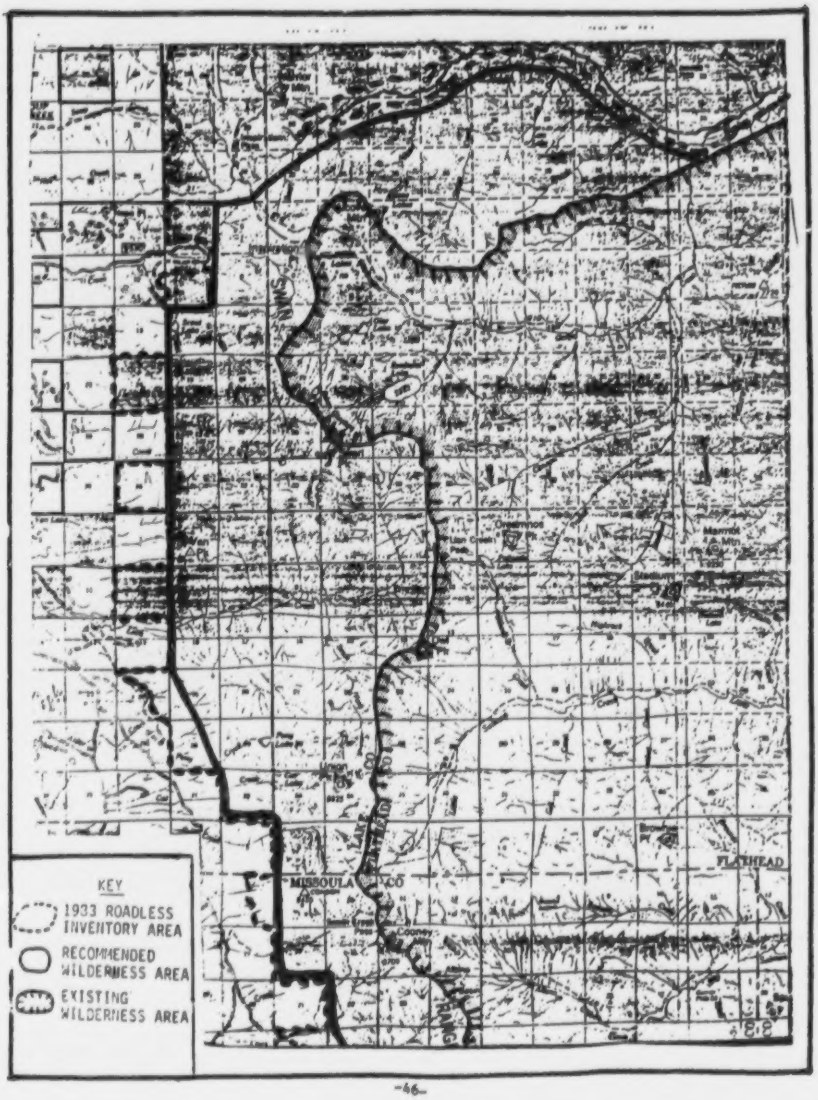
The portion of the Swan Front recommended for wilderness extends from Crescent Mountain on the south to Inspiration Point on the north, including a portion of the Bunker Creek drainage. This "west side Front" is a series of spectacular peaks and sweeping intervening saddles. The west slopes are steep with some timber. The numerous streams draining the Front originate in high, hidden alpine basins of exceptional solitude and beauty. Many of these basins are critical wildlife habitat, such as Grizzly Basin above Morrell Falls. Other key wildlife species include elk, deer, mountain goats, wolverine, fisher and trout found in the many cirque lakes.

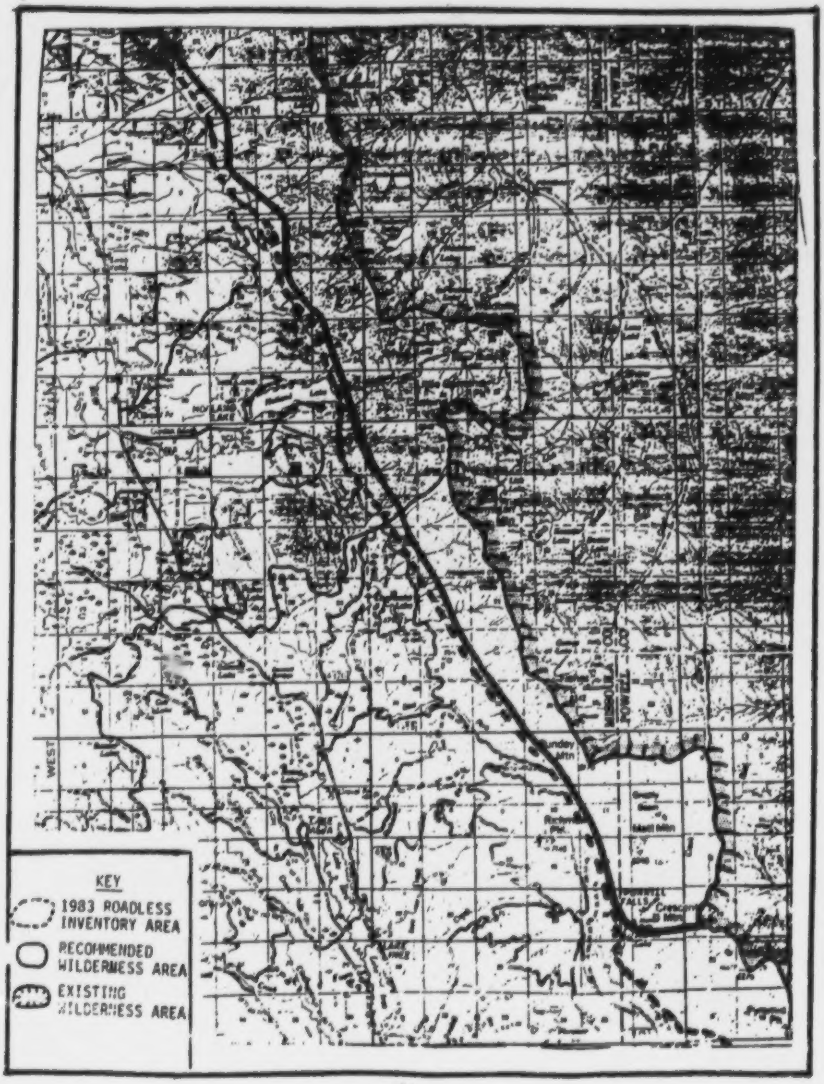
II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Timber resources are considered limited, due to site suitability criteria. On a forest-wide basis, they are not considered significant. There has been some interest in oil and gas potential and extensive leasing has occurred. The potential is not considered as good as that of the east "Front."

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The entire area has a common border with the Bob Marshall Wilderness on the east. On the west, it generally follows contour lines above existing roads. On its northern half, the western boundary pulls back to follow section lines well above existing roads to avoid including any "checkerboard" of private land. Also on the northern tip, the south slopes of the Bunker Creek drainage are included to provide needed security for wildlife resources.


SWAN
LAKE CO
MISSOULA CO
FLATHEAD
KEY
1933 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
WEST
Mtn
Crescent Mtn

MISSION ADDITION - I 500

Forest: Flathead
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 960
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 960

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

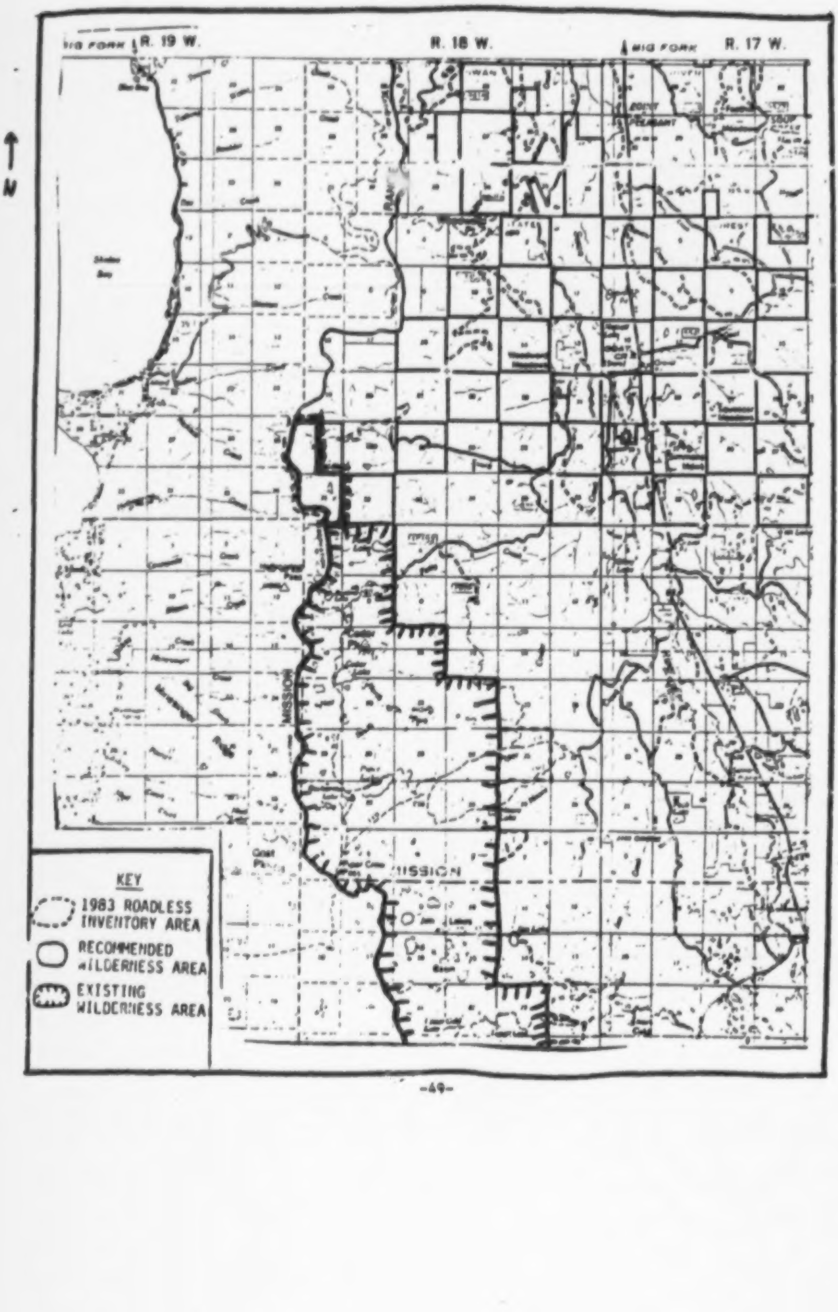
This small addition to the existing Mission Mountains Wilderness is recommended for inclusion in the wilderness system. It is a steep forested area with unnamed lakes. The steep slopes accumulate substantial rainfall - in excess of 60 inches annually, and support a western spruce-fir forest. Wildlife using the area include deer, elk and grizzly bear.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

The timber resource is not considered to be of significance due to site limitations. Oil and gas are of interest and the area has been leased. Some seismic testing has occurred.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

This small area is bounded on the south by the northern tip of the existing Mission Mountains Wilderness. The western boundary is the Flathead Indian Reservation. It is bordered on the east by state lands.


N
BIG FORK
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
BIG FORK
R. 17 W.
MISSION
MISSION
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

REPUBLIC MOUNTAIN ROADLESS AREA - 1545

Forrest: Gallatin
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 700
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 480

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

Republic Mountain is a small roadless area and a logical extension to the North Absaroka Wilderness which it borders on the south along the Wyoming border. Cooke City lies about one-half mile from the northeast of the boundary; Silver Gate lies about one-half mile northwest from the boundary.

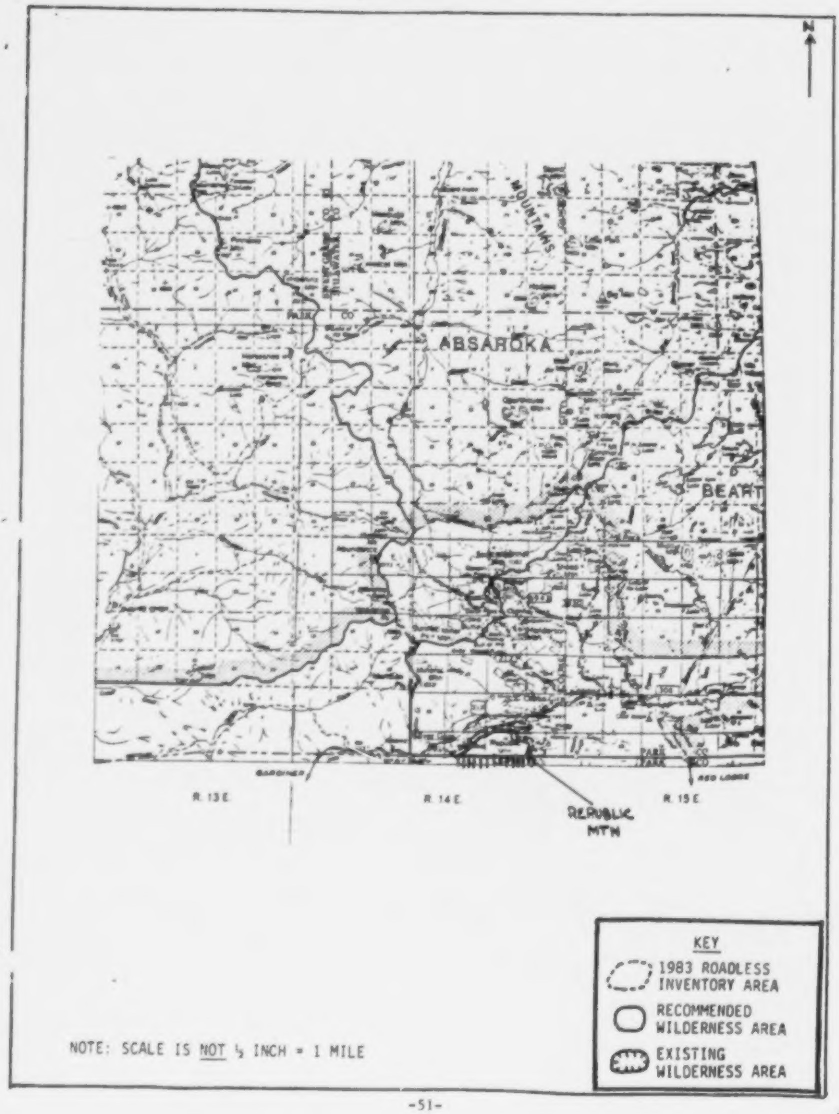
The area consists of the steep north slope, but not the peak, of 10,179 foot Republic Mountain which dominates the area. Rugged terrain, including cliffs, talus slopes, ravines, and spur ridges, typifies the area. The area is a logical extension of the North Absaroka Wilderness and forms a more definable boundary than the Montana-Wyoming state line.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

No commercial forest exists within the area. Area is rated "very high" to "medium" for locatable minerals, and "low" for oil and gas. Area is highly visible from Cooke City and Silver Gate and for travelers among the Beartooth Highway.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

Level terrain near the base, where evidence of past mining activity exists, and where snowmobile use is possible, has been eliminated from the recommended boundary. Also a narrow strip of forest land caused by a penetration of private land is eliminated by the boundary change.


N
MOUNTAINS
PARK
ABSAROKA
BEART
GARDINER
RED LODGE
PARK
R. 13 E.
R. 14 E.
R. 15 E.
REPUBLIC
MTN
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

NOTE: SCALE IS NOT ½ INCH = 1 MILE

LIONHEAD ROADLESS AREAS - 01963

Forest: Gallatin
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 32,783
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 24,500

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

The Lionhead Roadless Area lies adjacent to the Continental Divide between Idaho and Montana some 10 miles west of West Yellowstone. The lower slopes are timbered, while rugged, alpine peaks make up the higher elevation. The peaks reach 9,000 - 10,000 feet of elevation, and consist of rockland, talus, steep mountain valleys with some lakes and open alpine grasslands. The peaks dominate the view in the nearby surrounding area.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

The area receives a variety of recreation use both motorized and non-motorized with 70 percent of the use estimated to be semi-primitive and non-motorized. The southeast corner of the area contains snowmobile use areas considered to be important for "advanced" snowmobiling.

Over 2/3's of the area is non-forest or unproductive forest land. Most of remaining 1/3 is commercial forest land but generally of poorer quality and on steep, high-elevation slopes.

Livestock graze on 2,030 acres supporting 590 AUMs.

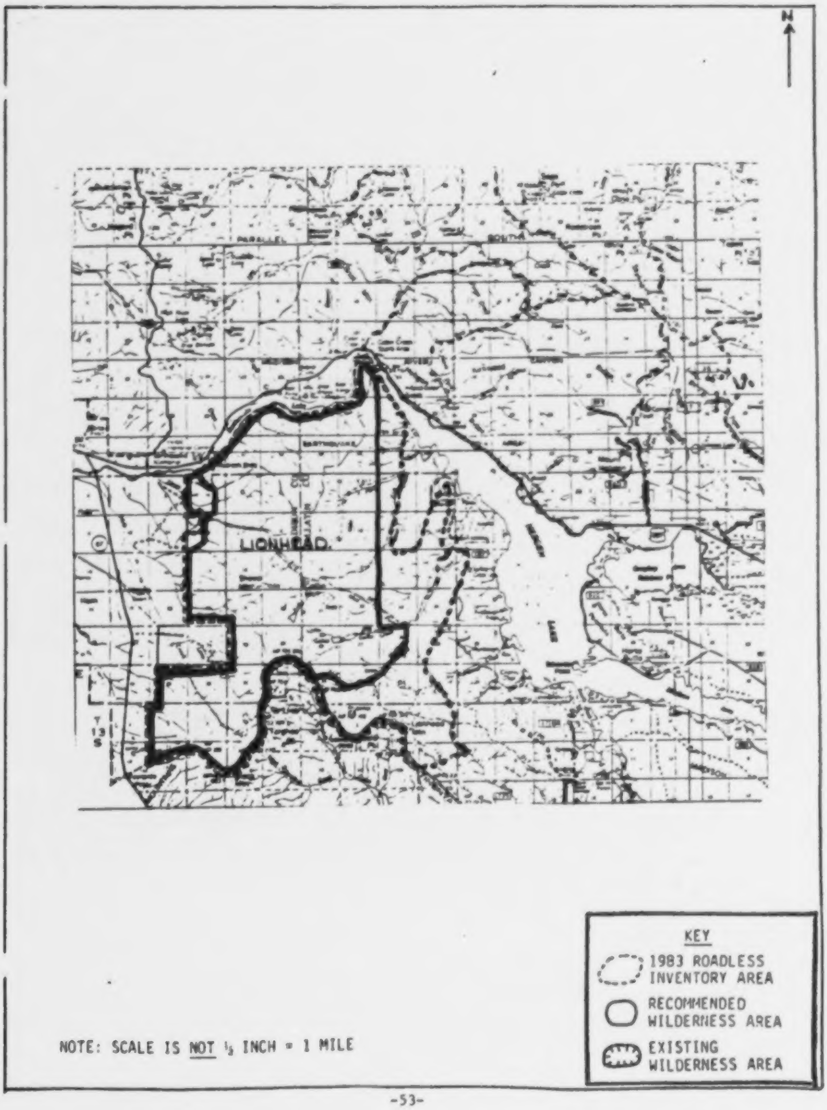
A population of Big Horn sheep inhabit the area.

About 4,500 acres of the roadless area are included in oil and gas lease application. One oil and gas lease of less than 1,000 acres exists on the western boundary.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

A boundary adjustment has been made to eliminate the oil and gas lease on the west side; on the east side a boundary adjustment eliminates areas of tentatively suitable timber, and a boundary adjustment in the southeast corner eliminates most snowmobile use areas and travel corridors and will help accommodate other motorized use.

If the area of oil and gas lease application were excluded from the boundary, the small wilderness size, would be further reduced.


N
LIONHEAD
T 13 S
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

NOTE: SCALE IS NOT ½ INCH = 1 MILE

BIG LOG - W1610

Forest: Helena

1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 9,974
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 9,974

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

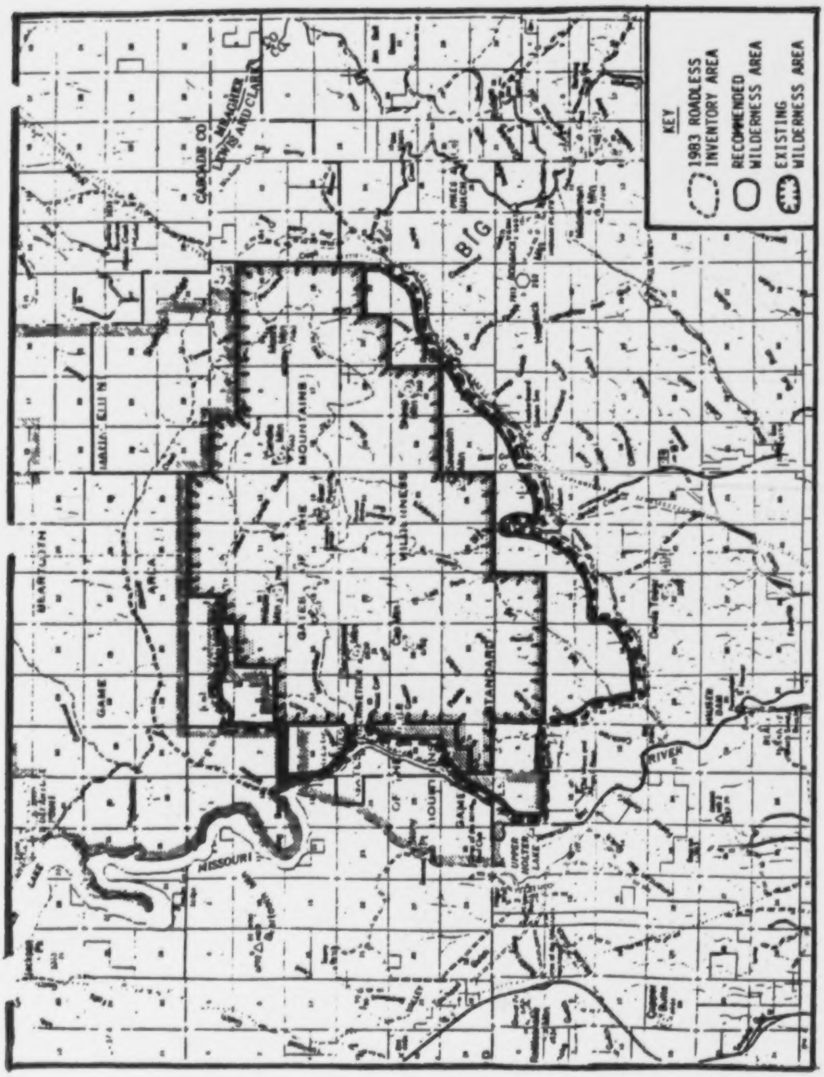
As an addition to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness, this area would add depth and would eliminate artificial section line boundaries of an existing wilderness. Opportunities for wilderness recreation would be increased in the Gates of the Mountains, an area known for its primitive, natural setting. Big Log, like the Gates of the Mountains, contains abrupt topography with sharp limestone ridges and cliffs, and narrow valley bottoms. Wildlife species include elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, grouse, turkey and other nongame species.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

The potential for locatable minerals is low; however, the area is part of the overthrust belt, has moderate potential for oil and gas, and currently has 9 leases covering 9541 acres. The majority of the area has been classified as non-commercial forest, and existing forest areas have low to medium production potential.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The U.S. Forest Service roadless area boundary forms the wilderness boundary. Originally, the area was larger, however 5 parcels (now area 1610) were broken out by the U.S. Forest Service to make W1610 a viable wilderness addition.


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
CASCADE CO
MEAGHER
LEWIS AND CLARK
BIG
GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS
WILDERNESS
STANDARD
BEARTOOTH
GAME
AREA
MISSOURI
RIVER
UPPER HOLTER LAKE

MOUNT BALDY - 1617

Forest: Helena
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 16,114
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 16,630

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

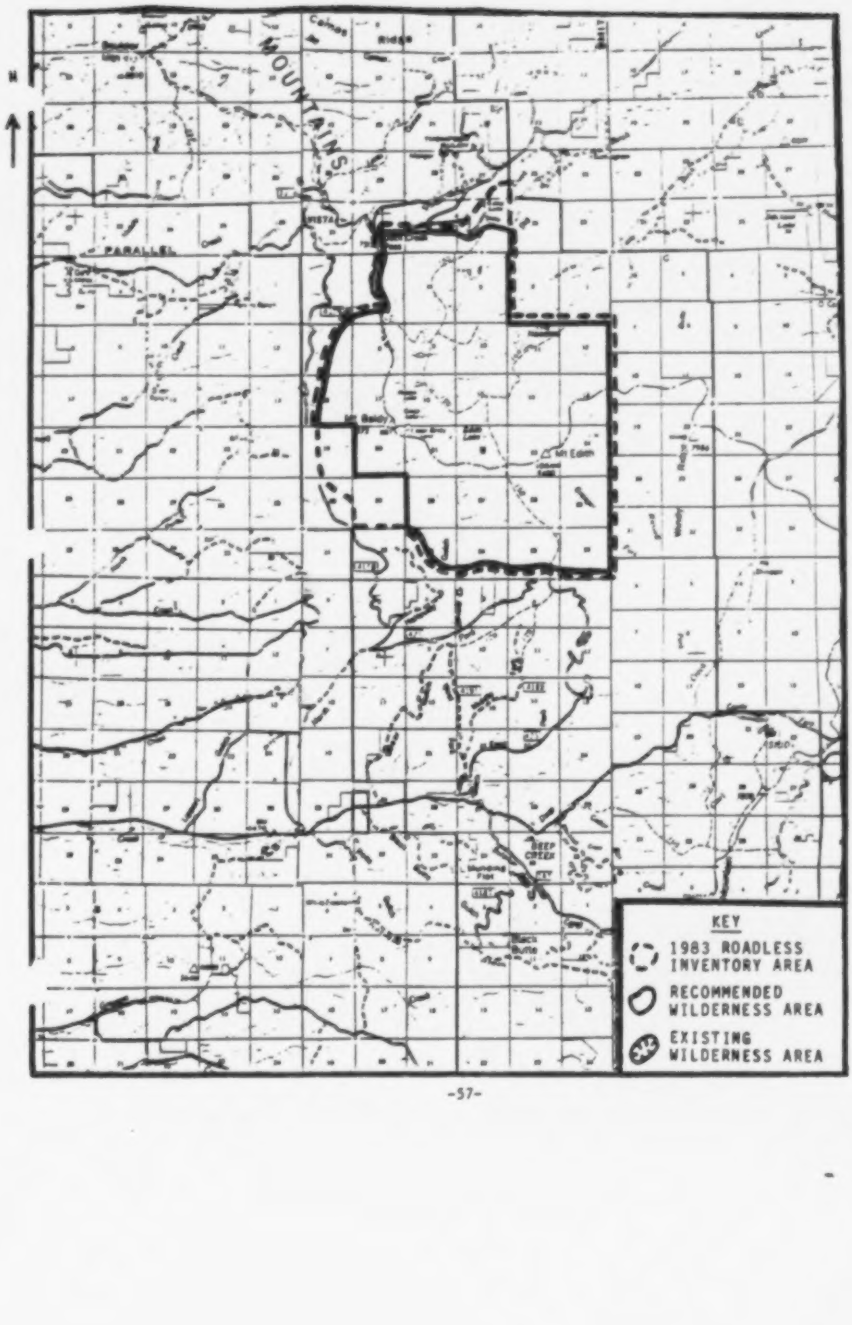
The heart of the area is Birch Creek Basin, a striking glacial cirque with over a dozen lakes, some with good populations of trout. Mount Baldy and Mount Edith reach 9400 feet and are clearly the most impressive peaks in the Big Belt Mountains. A limestone formation called the Needles is a unique feature. The scenic alpine nature and high mountain lakes make this a popular hiking, camping, and fishing area.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Although not a highly productive area for timber, some timber stands are present in the lower Birch Creek Basin, Holloway Gulch area, and southeastern corner of the area. Hardrock potential is rated low to medium with some placer gold potential. There is current motorcyle use along a designated trail and jeep trails. Oil and gas potential is rated low, however there are currently 6 leases covering 13,514 acres on which drilling has not yet occurred. Two grazing allottments now support 492 AUMS.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The wilderness boundary follows the U.S. Forest Service roadless area boundary with 2 exceptions. Two Sections of private land (Sections 19 and 29, T8N, R4E) are excluded on the southwest, and a manmade reservoir (Gypsy Lake) and adjacent roads are excluded on the northern tip.


N
MOUNTAINS
Ridge
PARALLEL
Mt Baldy
Mt Edith
DEEP CREEK
Black Butte
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

SCOTCHMAN PEAKS ROADLESS AREA - 1,662

Forest: Kootenai & Idaho Panhandle - Montana

1983 Roadless Area Net Acres:	Kootenai	52,100
	Idaho Panhandle (Montana)	12,417
		64,417
Recommended Wilderness Acres:	Kootenai	33,698
	Idaho Panhandle (Montana)	12,417
	TOTAL	46,115

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

The Scotchman Peaks roadless area is loctaed on the Idaho Panhandle and Kootenai National Forest on the Idaho-Montana border. It is in the western section of the Cabinet Mountains north of the Clark Fork River and lies between Lightning Creek on the west and Bull River on the east. Access to the area is by Highway #200 and #56 leading to several trails including Pillick Ridge and Star Gulch trails on the south and Ross Point and Little Spar Lake trails on the north.

The area is characterized by rugged alpine scenery left by glaciers on the upper elevations. Major scenic attractions include Sawtooth, Billiard Table Mountain in Montana and Scotchman Peaks in Idaho. In Ross Creek glacial cirques grade into the u-shaped valley of the south fork of Ross Creek. Stands of large old growth hemlock, cedar and white pine are found along the drainage to the scenic Ross Creek cedar grove below outside of the proposed wilderness area.

The area supports a small population of grizzly bear, a threatened species. Populations of elk, deer, big horn sheep and mountain goats also inhabit the area.

The only lake of significance in the area is Little Spar Lake. This receives heavy recreational use primarily for the fishery resource.

The wilderness potential for Scotchman Peak is high. Lack of access, the rugged terrain and dense vegetation provides a challenge for visitors looking for a true wilderness experience in a relatively small area.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Ross and Blue Creeks contain stands of large old growth cedar, white pine and hemlock. Most of the area recommended for wilderness does not have an economically suitable timber resource due to the rocky steep terrain. Road construction would be extremely difficult and logging would be limited to cable and helicopter logging systems.

Mineral potential is high for economic recovery of copper and silver deposits in the Ross Point and Star Gulch areas. Oil and gas potential is unknown.

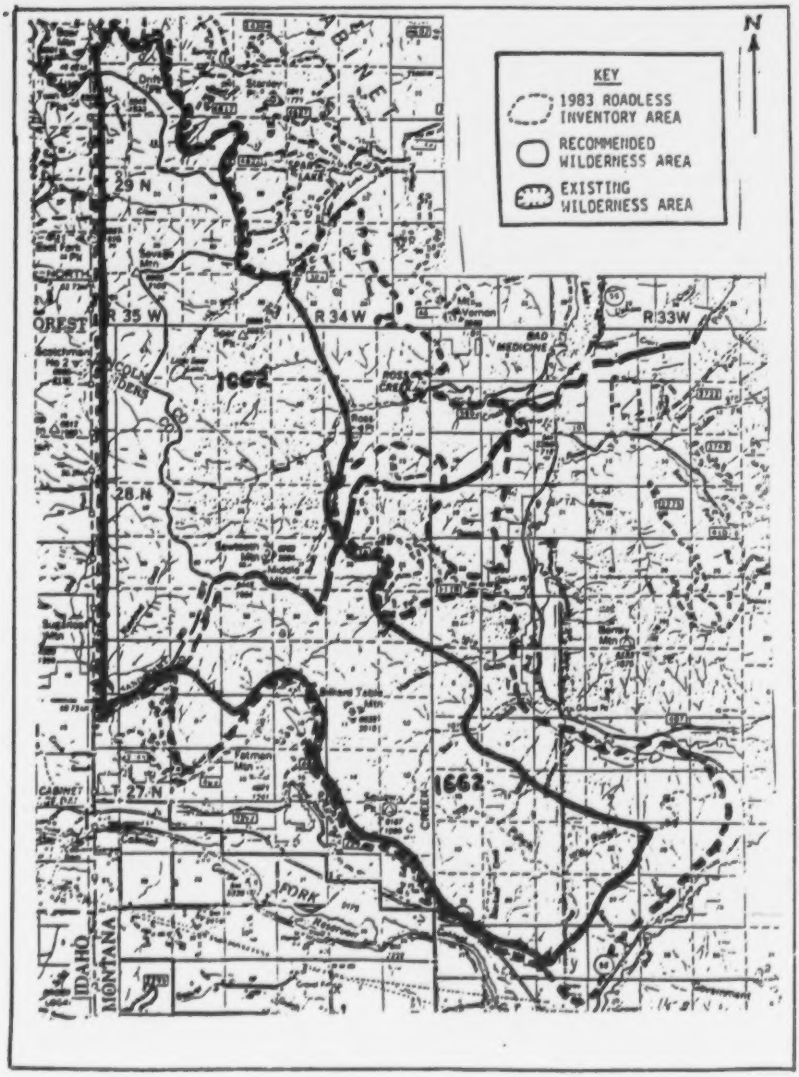
There are no grazing allotments in the area and grazing potential is all transitory.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

Mineral conflicts were mitigated by boundary adjustments in the Ross Peak area. Potential minerals in the Star Gulch area is also considered high, however boundary adjustments in the Star Gulch area were minimal. Exceptions for mineral exploration should be made in the Star Gulch are if the area were classifed as wilderness.

Boundary adjustments for the timber resources were made on the eastern boundaries and the lower Blue Creek area for timber considered economically suitable by the Kootenai National Forest.

Some snowmobile use is recognized in the Drift Peak area in the northern portion of the roadless area in Montana. This use would be precluded if the area were designated as wilderness.


N
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
29 N
R 35 W
R 34 W
R33W
28 N
T 27 N
1662
1662
IDAHO
MONTANA

CABINET FACE WEST ROADLESS AREA - 1,670

Forest: Kootenai
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 9,600
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 6,886

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This area is in two parcels starting on the west side of the Cabinet Wilderness area at Swanson Creek on the north and extending south to the Noggle Creek drainage. The Madge Creek access road separates the two parcels.

The area is steep and rugged and is primarily a side hill situation.

The drainages and sideslopes are forested with ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir.

The area would provide more solitude to the existing wilderness by increasing its size.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

The area is predominantly grizzly bear habitat. Mountain goats winter in the Camp Creek area and mountain sheep in the Ibex Peak area. Populations of elk, deer and black bear area also found in the area.

The timber resource potential is considered fair to poor due to the steep rocky slopes and difficulty of logging.

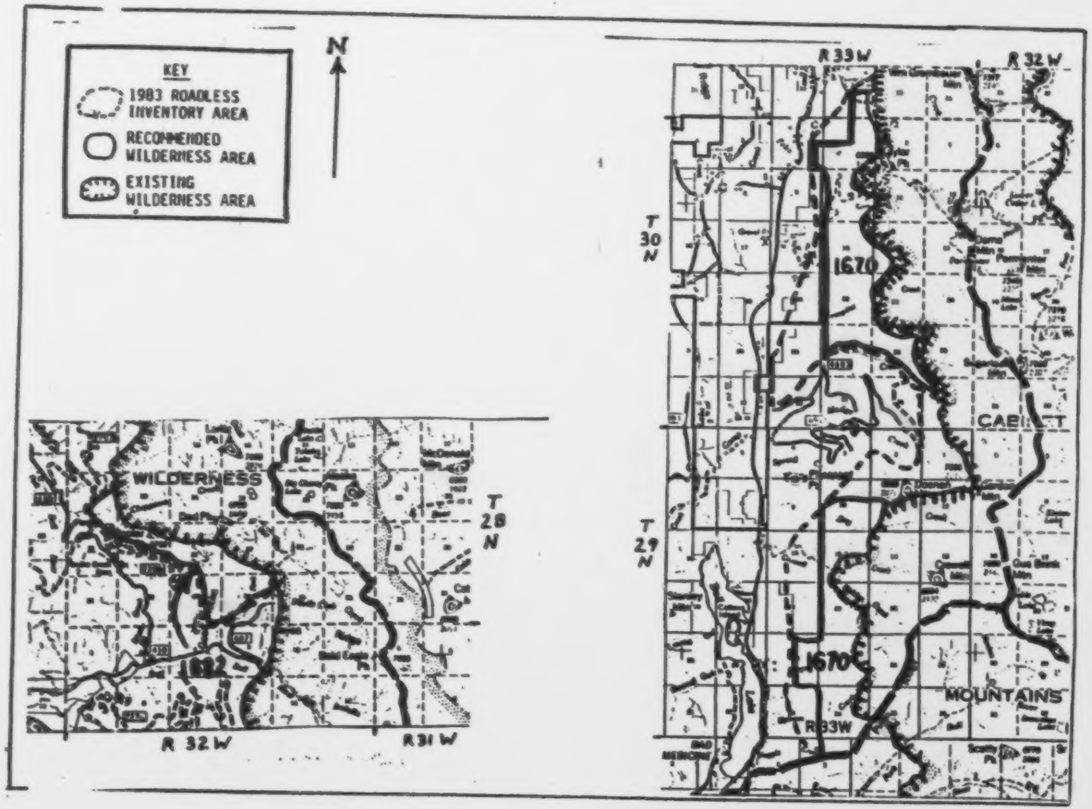
Mineral potential is considered low and oil and gas potential is unknown.

There are no grazing allotments and the grazing potential is all transitory.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The area as proposed has excluded the roadless State and private lands. Existing section lines can be marked to provide manageable boundary.

There are no significant resource potential that would be affected by a wilderness classification.


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
N
R 33 W
R 32 W
T 30 N
T 29 N
1670
CABINET
MOUNTAINS
R33W
WILDERNESS
T 28 N
1682
R 32 W
R 31 W

CABINET FACE EAST ROADLESS AREA - 1,671
Forest: Kootenai
1983 Roadless Net Acres: 50,500
Recommended Wilderness Area: 17,357

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

The area recommended for wilderness is located on the eastern edge of the Cabinet Wilderness and north of Leigh Creek. It also includes roadless areas 681 A & B on the 1978 Rare II inventory on the extreme north end adjacent to the Lions picnic ground. The area is accessible by roads and trails off U.S. Highway #2 westerly from Libby. The proposed addition is approximately 15 miles long and varies from 1 to 3 miles wide.

Topography is rugged steep walled canyons. Topography ranges from 3,600 feet to 7,000 feet in elevation. The lower elevations are timbered in the stream bottoms and sparsely vegetated in the higher elevation. Slopes are steep, 55% and above. The lower elevations are managed for timber and wildlife on the eastern edge.

Douglas-fir and spruce timber types are the cover type represented.

Attractions include numerous hiking trails, wildlife and scenery. A wide variety of wildlife including grizzly bear inhabit the area.

Addition of this area would provide greater depth and opportunities for solitude to the existing Cabinet Wilderness.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Timber potential for the proposed addition is low. Mineral potential for the area is low.

Oil and gas potential is unknown.

There are no grazing allotments in the area. Grazing potential is low and is transitory in nature.

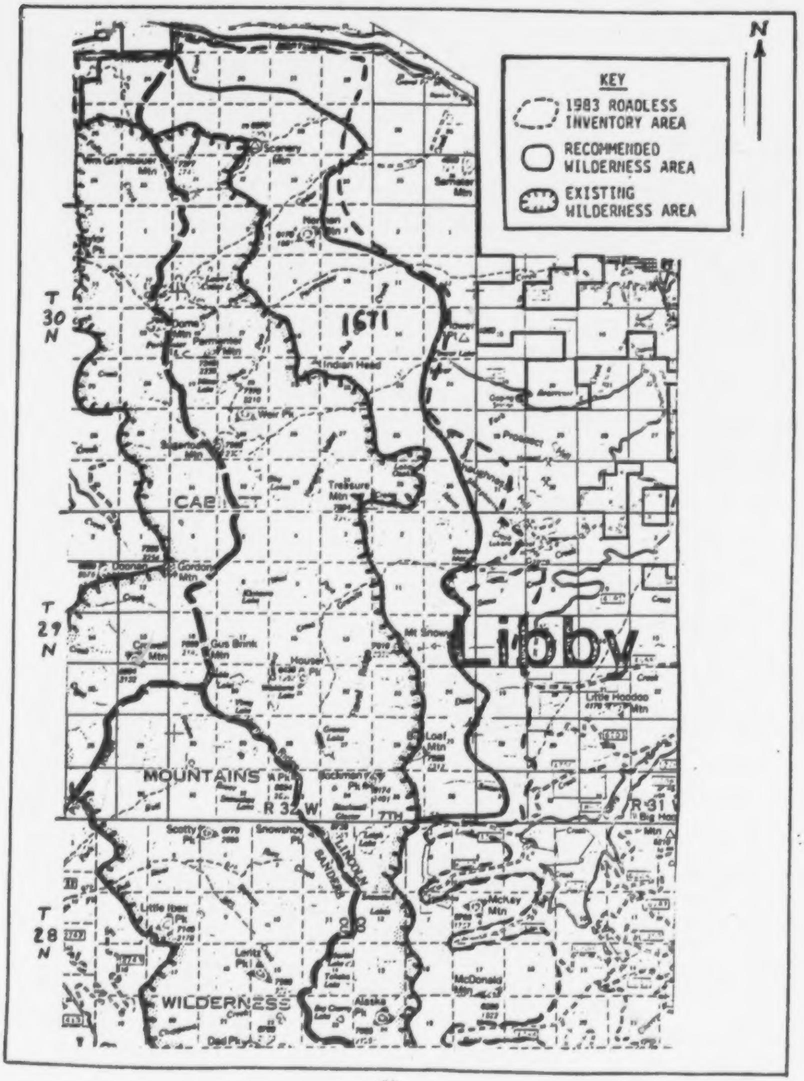
III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The significant timber resource areas have been excluded from the recommended wilderness areas. Timber harvest within the recommended areas is not considered economically feasible due to steep rocky slopes, difficulty of road construction and logging.

Areas with mineral potential or potential claims south of Leigh Creek have been excluded from the recommended wilderness addition.

Special uses including a Soil Conservation Service snow course and an electronic site is located on Indian Head Mountain. Exceptions to the wilderness recommendation will need to be included to continue these existing uses.

Modification of the proposed boundary have excluded private lands and mitigated most conflicts. The boundary selected follows distinct topographic features and should be easy to manage.


N
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
T 30 N
T 29 N
T 28 N
1671
CABINET
MOUNTAINS
WILDERNESS
Libby
R 32 W
R 31 W
7TH
Scenery Mtn
Dome Mtn
Parmenter Mtn
Indian Head
Sugarloaf Mtn
Treasure Mtn
Gordon Mtn
Mt Snowshoe
Gus Brink Mtn
Houser Pk
Little Hoodoo Mtn
Loaf Mtn
Bockman Pk
Scotty Pk
Snowshoe Pk
Little Ibex Pk
Leritz Pk
Alaska Pk
McKay Mtn
McDonald Mtn
Prospect Creek

McKAY CREEK ROADLESS AREA - 1,676

Forest: Kootenai
1983 Roadless Net Acres: 14,100
Recommended Wilderness Area: 6,081

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

The area is located adjacent to the southwestern corner of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness area south of Wanless Lake. The area can be accessed by trail from the McKay Creek and Swamp Creek roads off of State Highway #200.

The portion of the roadless area proposed for wilderness includes the headwaters of Swamp Creek and McKay Creek. Topography is steep and rocky including stream bottom and ridge top. Forest cover types include ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, cedar, hemlock and evergreen spruce.

The area contains suitable grizzly bear and mule deer habitats. The Swamp Creek and McKay Creek trails provide access to the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness.

The area's natural integrity and appearance are high with trails being the only man-made features. Opportunities for solitude are many and of a high quality especially in the Swamp Creek area. Primitive recreation opportunities include hunting, fishing and hiking. McKay Creek if classified as wilderness would enhance the existing Cabinet Wilderness by providing more depth and solitude.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

The area contains suitable grizzly bear and mule deer habitat.

Timber suitability in the proposed wilderness addition is poor due to the difficulty and high cost of road construction. Logging would be limited to cable and helicopter systems.

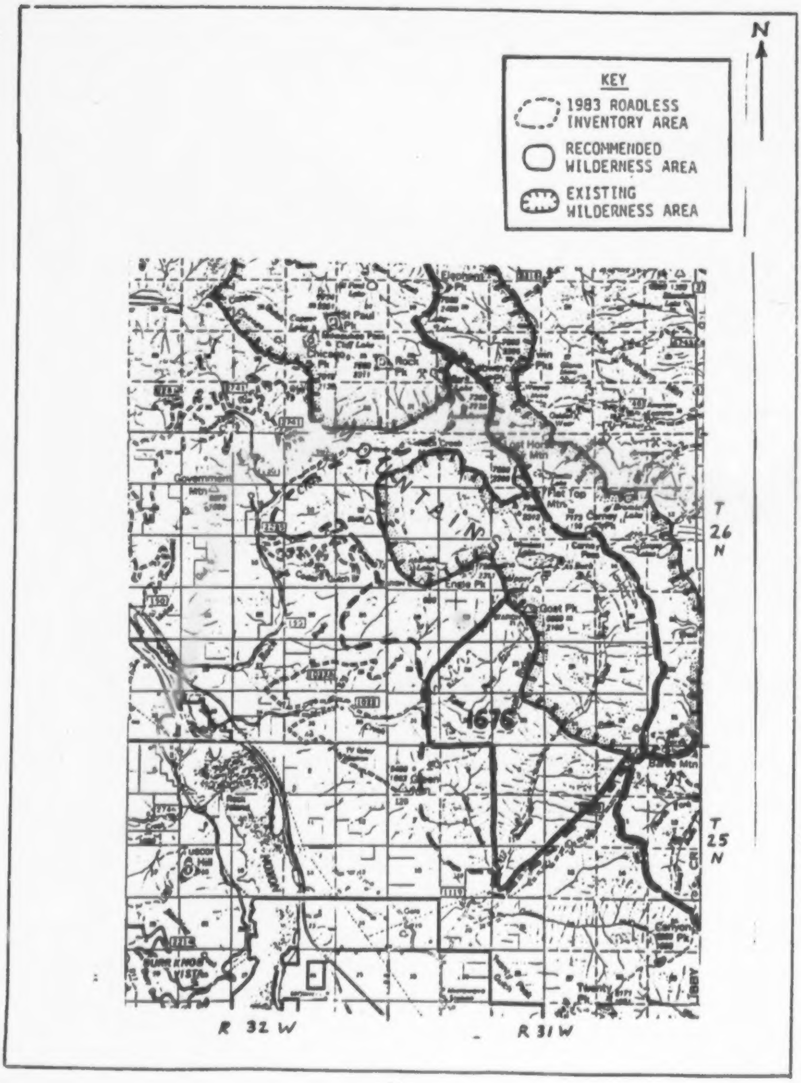
Mineral potential for economic recoverable copper and silver deposits are high to the north of the proposed area in the Eagle Peak area. Exploration by U.S. Borax indicates a high mineral potential. The oil and gas potential for the area is unknown.

There are no grazing allotments in the area and grazing potential is considered all transitory.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE

Boundary adjustments to the roadless area as recommended in this wilderness proposal mitigates the conflicts with mineral development and timber production. A parcel of private land in McKay Creek is currently under exchange negotiations with the U.S.F.S.

McKay Creek if classified as wilderness would enhance the depth and solitude of the existing Cabinet Wilderness. The boundary as proposed is easily identified by natural features and would not present a problem as proposed.


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
N
1676
T 26 N
T 25 N
R 32 W
R 31 W
Government Mtn
Goat Pt.
Flat Top Mtn
Rock Pt.
St Paul Pt.
Baker Mtn
Canyon Peak

CHIPPEWA CREEK ROADLESS AREA - 1,682

Forest: Kootenai
1983 Roadless Net Acres: 2,100
Recommended Wilderness Area: 2,100

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This area is located on the west side adjacent to the existing Cabinet Wilderness area west of Dad Peak. Access to the area is provided from the Bull Lake road - State Highway #56 and the south fork and east fork of the Bull River road. Trail access through the area is from the east fork of the Bull River road.

The area is on a high steep rocky ridge top located on the west edge of the Cabinet Wilderness. The area is bordered to the west by roads and existing timber harvest units. The timber is primarily Douglas-fir cover type.

The area contains big horn sheep, goats and mule deer. The overall integrity and appearance is high. Opportunities for solitude is moderate because the area overlooks the developed Bull River Valley. The area would enhance the Cabinet Wilderness by providing more depth and solitude to the existing Cabinet Wilderness.

II. SIGNIFICANT RESOURCE VALUES:

The area contains big horn sheep, goats and mule deer. The area is considered suitable grizzly bear habitat.

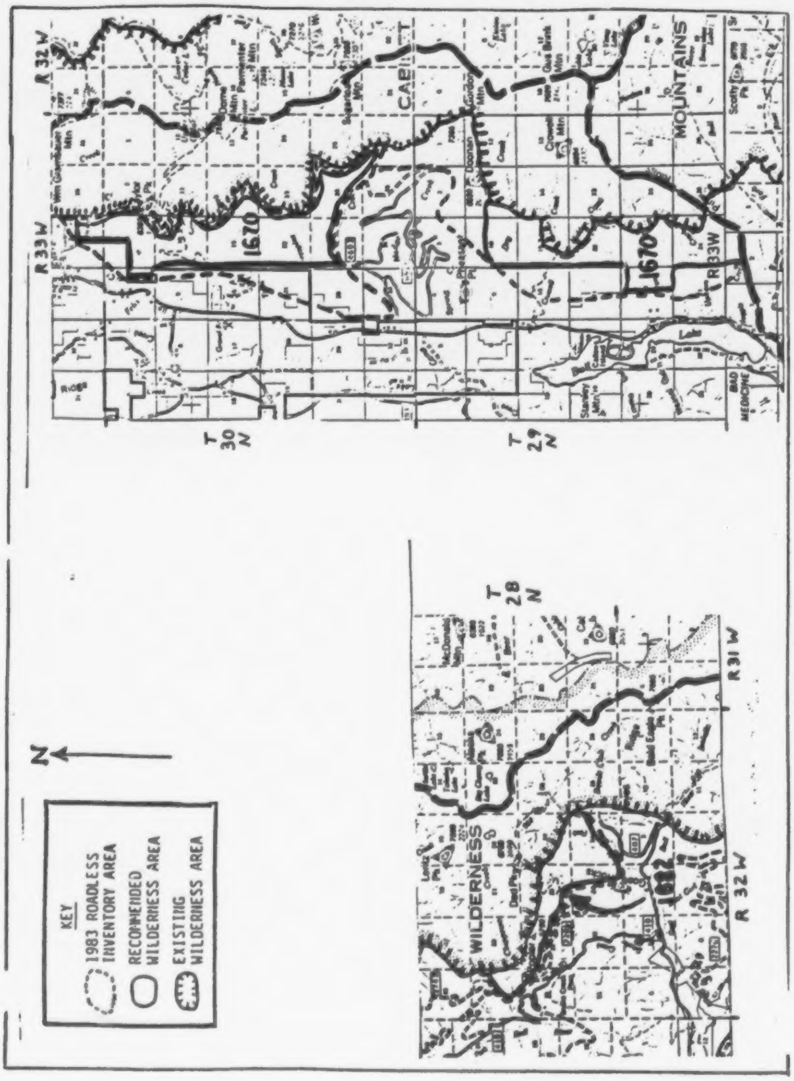
Timber suitability is considered low due to the steep rocky slopes. Road construction would be very costly and logging would be limited to cable and helicopter systems.

There are no grazing allotments in the area and grazing potential would be transitory.

Mineral potential is low and oil and gas potential is unknown.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

Manageability of the area boundary would be somewhat difficult as it does not follow well defined boundaries. Except for a marginal timber resource, conflicts would be minimal if this area were added to the wilderness system.


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
N
R 32 W
R 33 W
R 31 W
T 30 N
T 29 N
T 28 N
CABINET
MOUNTAINS
WILDERNESS
1670
1682
BAD MEDICINE

CHOTEAU MOUNTAIN - TETON A 1485

Forest: Lewis & Clark
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 45,000
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 39,040

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

These are two small additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness. This is the northernmost area being recommended along the Rocky Mountain Front. Both units are adjacent to Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks' wildlife management areas on the east and the Bob Marshall on the west.

The Choteau Mountain unit is dominated by its namesake and Mt. Werner. The area is key habitat for grizzly, elk and deer. Since it is key habitat adjacent to a state wildlife management area and the existing wilderness, preserving its wild land character is essential.

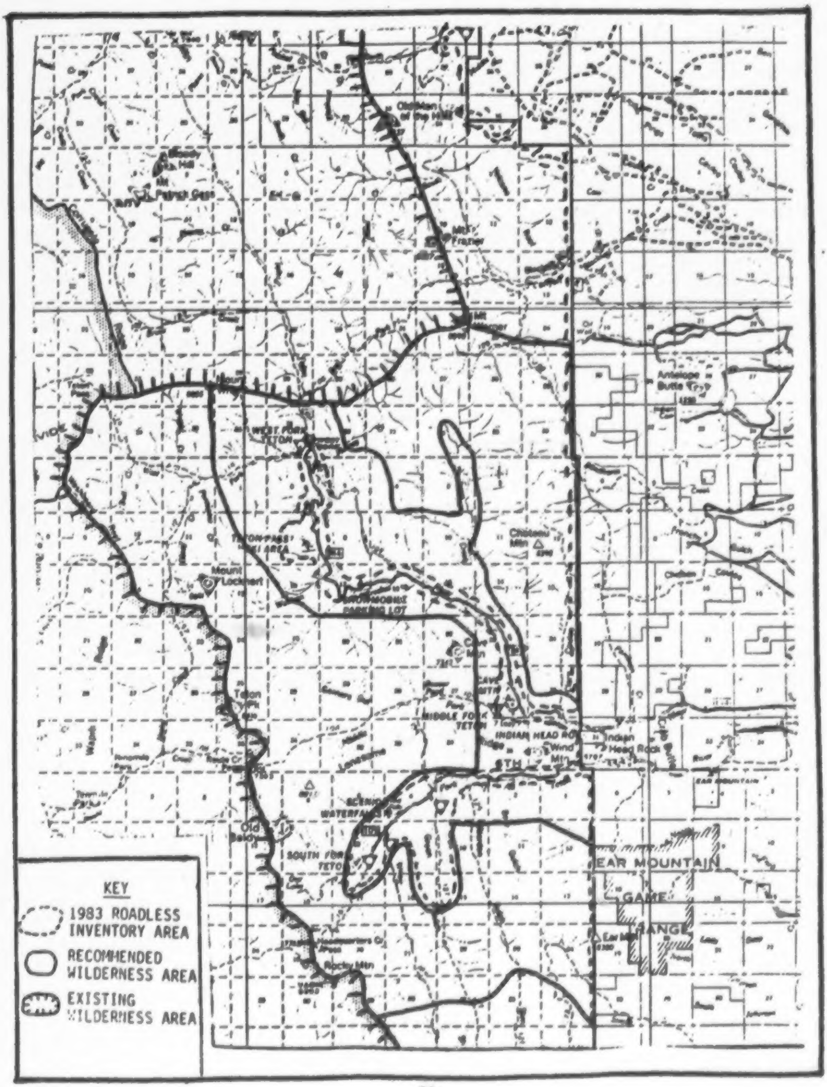
The Teton addition is dominated by spectacular peaks along the Sun River-Teton divide. It contains several key access trails into the wilderness. The southern portion adjoins the state's Ear Mountain Wildlife Management Area and Nature Conservancy's ambitious Pine Butte grizzly preserve project. Wild lands between these projects and the existing wilderness must be preserved.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

A key resource of the general area is recreation, including a ski run and a snowmobile area. These uses have been given major consideration. Some timber identified as of potential commercial value is found in the units. The main interest, however, is oil and gas. Leases have been issued over most of the area.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary was drawn creating two units to accommodate mechanized recreation and some timber potential. The wide nonwilderness area up the West Fork should be ample for the ski area and snowmobiles. Some suitable timber areas were also avoided to accommodate post, pole, firewood and other local needs. The fact that the eastern boundary coincides with the forest boundary is of no concern. The adjacent landowners are primarily other public lands managed by the BLM or Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks and private lands owned by Nature Conservancy.


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
Mt. Frazier
Antelope Butte
WEST FORK TETON
TETON PASS SKI AREA
Mount Lockhart
Choteau Mtn
MIDDLE FORK TETON
INDIAN HEAD ROCK
Indian Head Rock
Wind Mtn
Teton Pk
Old Baldy
SCENIC WATERFALL
SOUTH FORK TETON
Rocky Mtn
EAR MOUNTAIN GAME RANGE
Ear Mtn

SILVER KING-FALLS CREEK - F 1485

Forest: Lewis & Clark/Helena
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres:
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 42,240

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This area is a logical eastward extension of the Scapegoat Wilderness and is an addition to the protection of the Rocky Mountain Front. It is the furthest south of the proposed additions. The Dearborn River and Falls Creek are the prominent streams and are good fishing. The Dearborn is an exceptionally beautiful mix of falls, swift runs, and clear, deep pools carved into bedrock. Prominent features include Twin Buttes, Corridor Peak, Burnet Point, Silver King Mountain, and Monitor Mountain.

Like all "Front" additions, it is critical to wildlife. Species of particular concern include grizzly and black bears, elk and bighorn sheep.

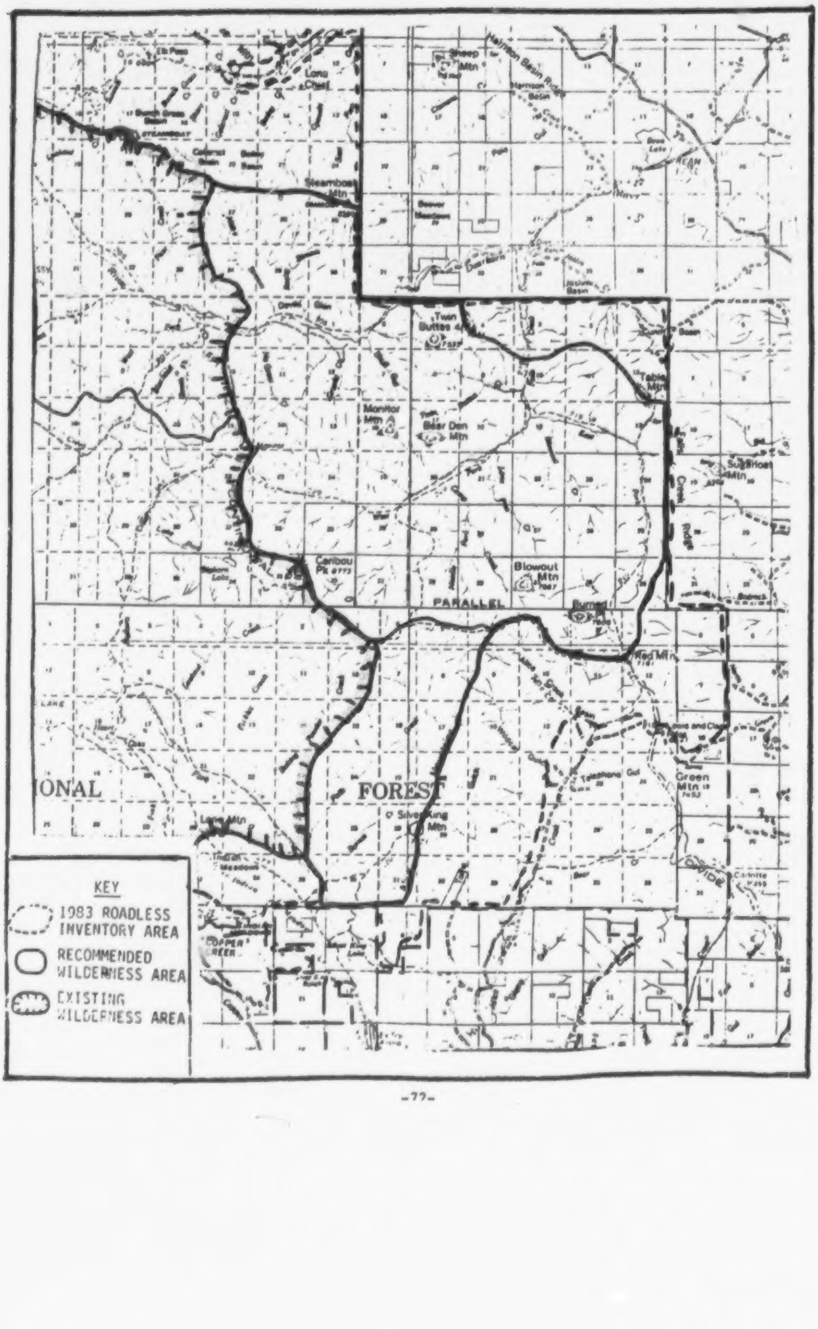
II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Very little timber potential exists in this proposed wilderness addition. Less than 20% of the original roadless area was classified as commercial forest land. Because of topography and other constraints, most of the timbered areas are considered marginal.

The oil and gas potential is considered high as it is for all "Front" areas. The area has not been leased because it was recommended for wilderness by the Forest Service.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary follows distinct topographic features for the most part. Exceptions are where it crosses Falls Creek and the Dearborn River. In two instances the boundary coincides with the forest boundary. These cases are not considered to be problems because the topography generally lends itself to easy recognition.


Long Crest
Steamboat Mtn
Sheep Mtn
Beaver Meadows
Twin Buttes
Table Mtn
Monitor Mtn
Bear Den Mtn
Sugarloaf Mtn
Creek
Ridge
Caribou Pk
Blowout Mtn
PARALLEL
Red Mtn
Green Mtn
ONAL
FOREST
Silver King Mtn
Lone Mtn
COPPER CREEK
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

DEEP CREEK - P 1485

Forest: Lewis & Clark
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 41,830
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 40,320

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

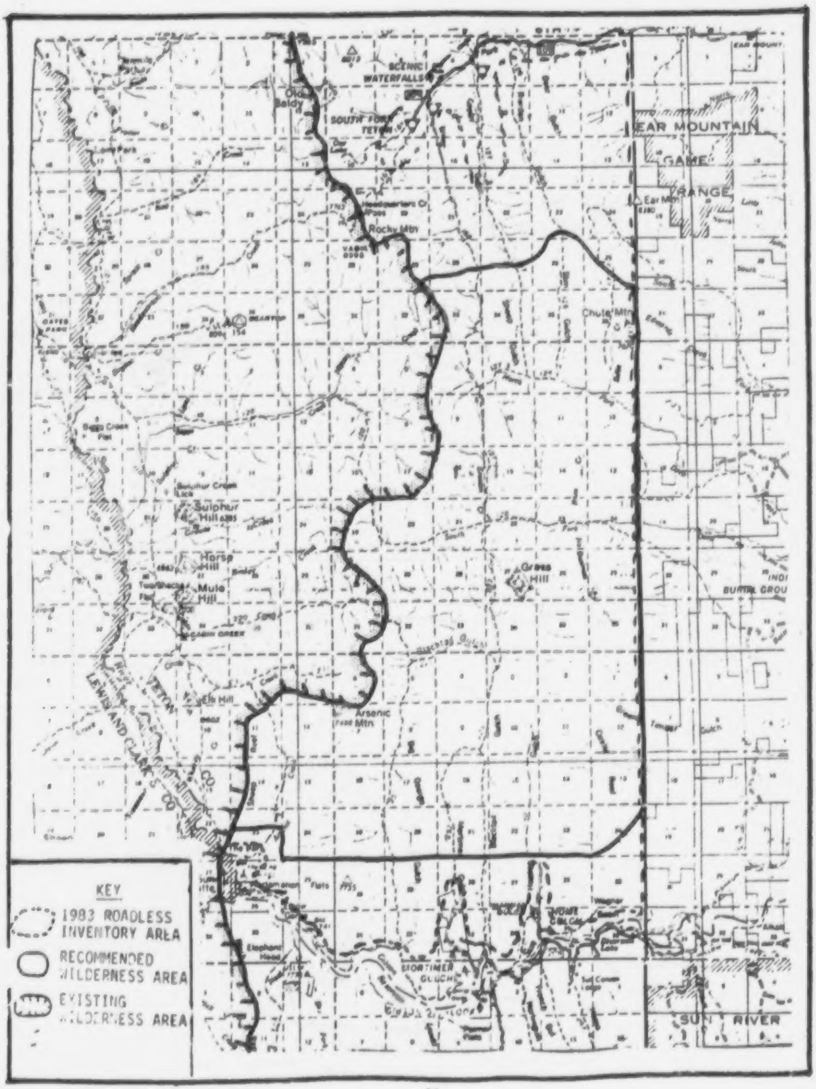
This is a rugged, scenic area north of Gibson Reservoir and represents an eastward extension of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. The topography is dominated by high parallel ridges or "reefs" separated by deep, narrow valleys or gulches. Castle Reef, the easternmost of the formations, is visible from far out on the plains. The gulches, Hannan, Blacktail, Mortimer and Big George, are all of great significance to Montana and the nation's outdoorsmen. The big game resource here is of national significance and includes grizzly, elk, deer, bighorn sheep and mountain goats.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Deep Creek is sparsely timbered with little, if any, of it of commercial value. There is intense oil and gas interest in the area, and the area is leased. These leases include 34,664 acres of no surface occupancy and 7,174 of surface occupancy. A lawsuit challenging these leases has been filed.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The western boundary adjoins the Bob Marshall, the northern follows a hydrologic divide. The eastern boundary coincides with the forest boundary. This is not considered a problem, since the adjacent lands are primarily public lands managed by the BLM. The southern boundary follows section lines generally two miles back from Gibson Reservoir. This was done to avoid any potential conflict with existing or traditional uses. Primitive jeep roads extend up two of the gulches. These can be terminated at or near the proposed boundary and represent an alteration that would revert to a suitably natural condition in time.


Old Baldy
SCENIC WATERFALLS
SOUTH FORK TETON
Rocky Mtn
EAR MOUNTAIN
GAME
RANGE
Ear Mtn
Chute Mtn
Biggs Creek Flat
Sulphur Creek Lick
Sulphur Hill
Horse Hill
Mule Hill
Elk Hill
Arsenic Mtn
Grass Hill
TETON CO
LEWIS AND CLARK'S CO
Elephant Head
MORTIMER GULCH
SUN RIVER
KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA

RENSHAW - W 1485

Forest: Lewis & Clark
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres:
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 36,480

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

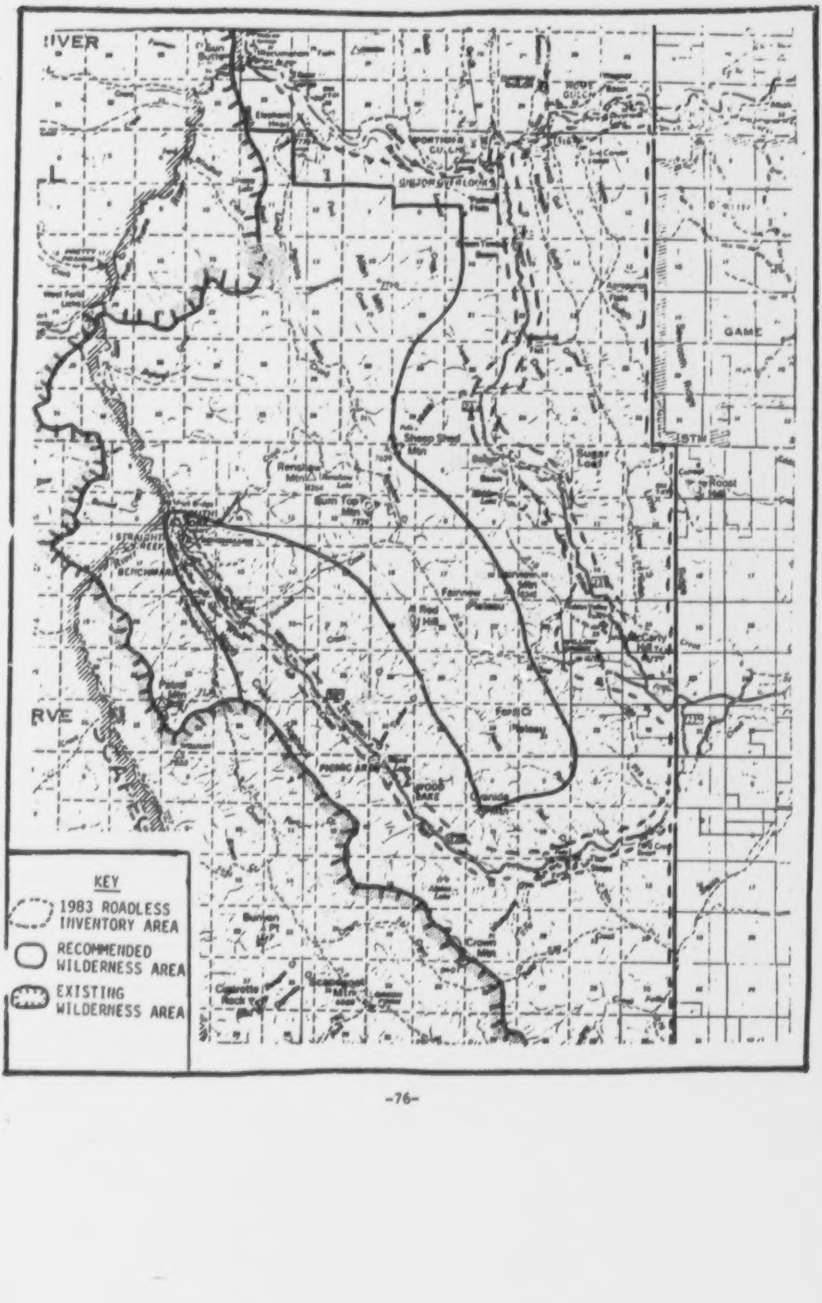
This proposed wilderness addition along the "Rocky Mountain Front" lies between the Benchmark road and Gibson Reservoir. To the west it borders the Bob Marshall and Scapegoat wilderness. It makes a logical extension of both of these areas. Renshaw is a rugged scenic area and its prominent features, Renshaw and Fairview mountains, are visible from far out on the plains to the east. Big game habitat for grizzly, elk, deer and bighorn sheep is exceptional. Places like Patrick's Basin, Ford Creek Plateau and Fairview Plateau are legendary among big game hunters.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Very little of this area is suitable for timber management activities. As with all "Front" areas, oil and gas interest is high. The area has not been leased because it has been recommended as wilderness by the Forest Service. Grazing by domestic stock is currently permitted and would not be affected by wilderness classification.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

Although a long, narrow unit, the boundaries are well defined by existing wilderness and topographic features. Exceptions to this south of Gibson Reservoir and on the slopes of Renshaw Mountain should cause no problems. The suggested boundary generally is back a mile or two from the Benchmark and Beaver Creek roads. This should accomodate some temperate use of other commodities such as post and pole cutting and firewood gathering.


KEY
1983 ROADLESS INVENTORY AREA
RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS AREA
RIVER
RVE
GAME
Sheep Shed Mtn
Renaker Mtn
Burn Top Mtn
Sugar Loaf
Red Hill
Fairview Plateau
STRAIGHT REEF
BENCHMARK
PICNIC AREA
WOOD LAKE
Crown Mtn
Burton Pt
Cigarette Rock
Scapegoat Mtn
ROOT GULCH
GIBSON OVERLOOK
Fossil Mtn
Roost

HOODOO (GREAT BURN) - 01301

Forest: Lolo
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 98,500
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 91,600

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

The Hoodoo Roadless Area straddles the Montana-Idaho border 30 miles west of Missoula. Great ecological diversity and abundant forage resulting from the 1910 fires provide habitat for a variety of wildlife, notably elk. Clear streams and 33 mountain lakes represent an outstanding trout fishery.

The abundance of high, subalpine tundra, exceptional scenery and the opportunity for solitude attract large numbers of recreationists year-round. The area received the highest Wilderness Quality Index of any wilderness study area in the nation during RARE I.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

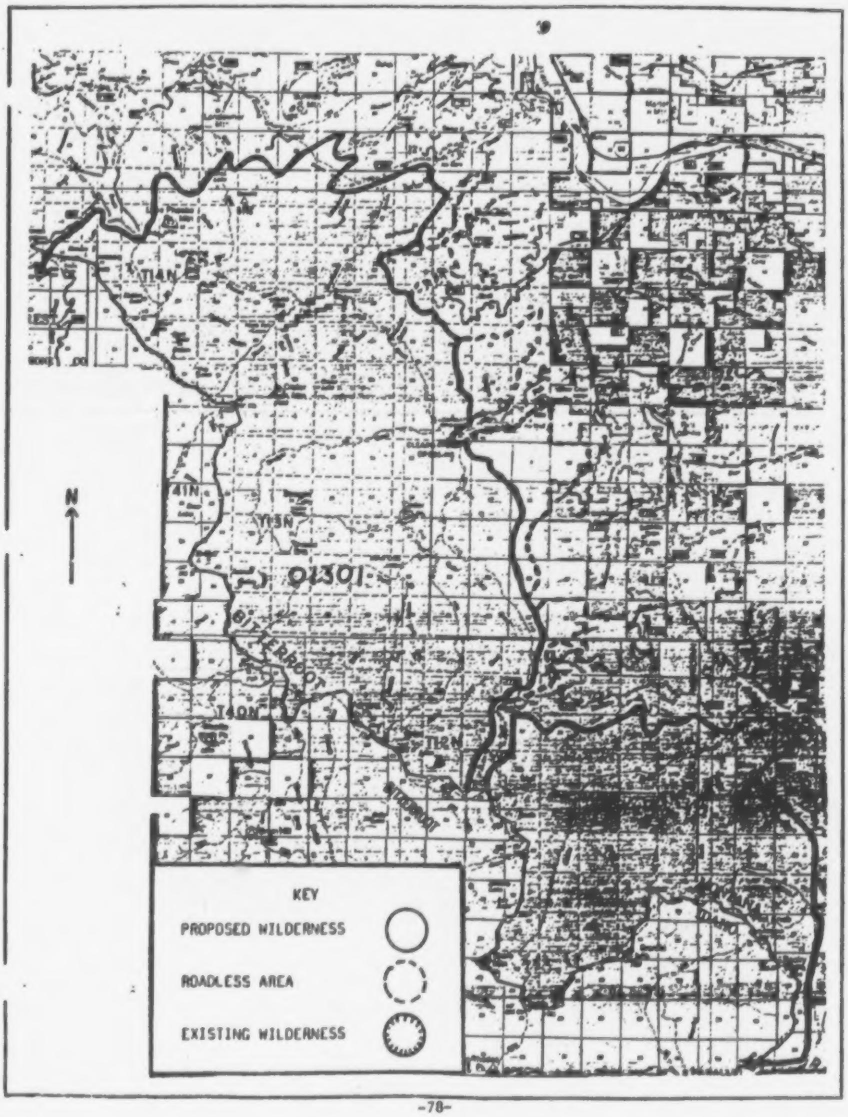
Mineral potential is rated generally low to medium, but about 5000 acres of high potential occur in the Montana portion. A large number of non-patented claims exist in the Cache Creek Area and along the northern boundary. About 5 percent of the area is under oil and gas lease.

Stands of old growth timber are found in drainage bottoms along the western boundary, comprising a standing volume of 64.7 million board feet in Montana.

Wildlife, fishery and wilderness resources are significant. An increasing number of hunters, fishermen, hikers and skiers use the area each year. The area is extensively used by commercial outfitters, primarily for elk hunting.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary has been adjusted to exclude timber values along the western border of the area. The corridor through the southern portion, along the Schley Mountain road, will allow access to existing mining claims.


N
T14N
T41N
T13N
01301
BITTERROOT
T40N
T12N
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS

CLEARWATER-MONTURE - A1485

Forest: Lolo
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 124,000
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 67,000

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This wilderness addition borders the south boundary of the Bob Marshall for 31 miles and the Scapegoat for 18 miles. The area has been used for years as an important access to these wildernesses via the popular North Fork of the Blackfoot River and such scenic mountain passes as Hahn Creek, Limestone, Youngs and Pyramid Pass.

Wilderness values within the area include essential grizzly habitat, several high mountain lakes and the broad Monture Creek valley; heavily forested and undeveloped.

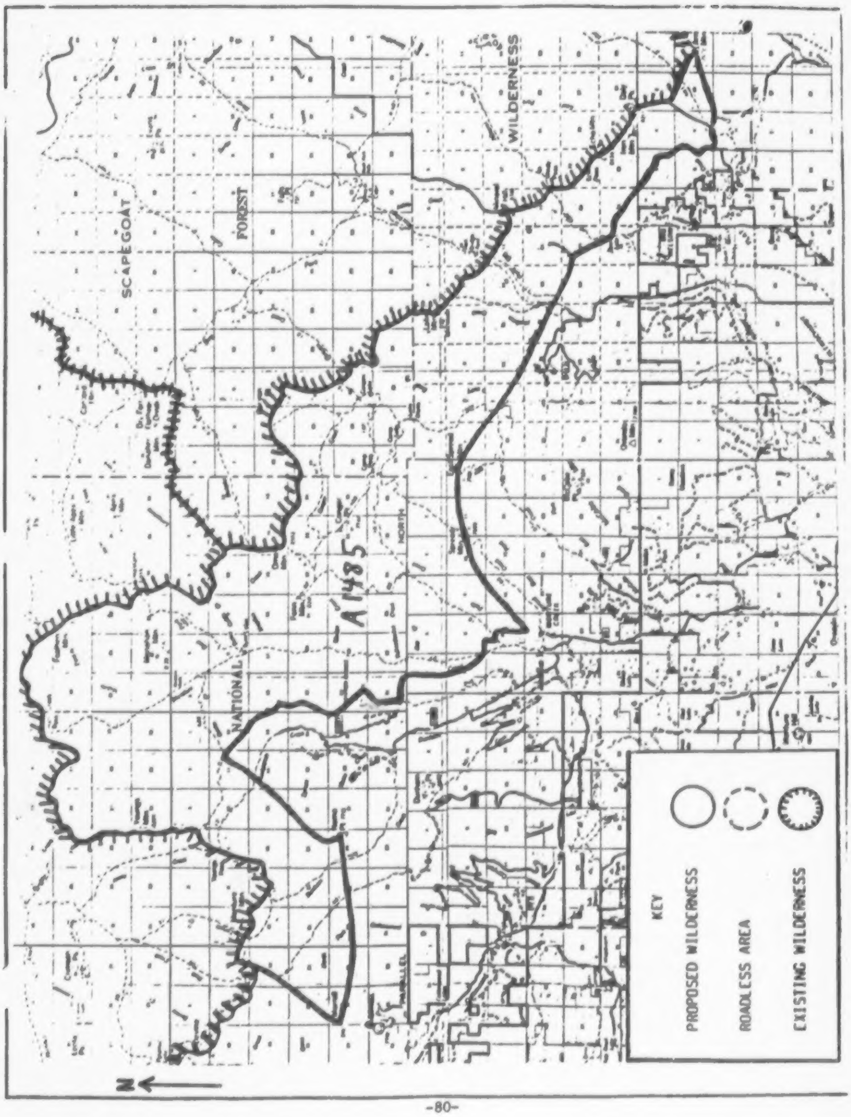
II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Oil and gas leases have been issued in the area but the potential is not considered as high as along the Rocky Mountain Front.

There are significant timber values within the 124,000 acre area.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The recommended boundary represents a carefully drawn compromise between timber and snowmobile interests and wilderness advocates. A popular Lincoln-to-Seeley Lake snowmobile route exists just south of the proposed boundary, which was drawn to follow topographic features as much as possible.


SCAPEGOAT
NATIONAL
FOREST
WILDERNESS
NORTH
A1485
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS
N

CUBE IRON - SILCOX - 01784

Forest: Lolo
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 37,700
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 32,900

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This area occupies the scenic, lake-studded ridge between the Clark Fork and Thompson Rivers, about three miles north of Thompson Falls. Upper elevations are mostly nonforested and supply a significant part of the area's 9322 acres of essential grizzly bear habitat. Nearly twenty lakes are found in glacial cirque basins, a significant mountain lake fishery. The extremely varied topography results in a diversity of habitats and wildlife resources. Almost 5000 acres of deer and elk winter range occupy the lower elevation, south and west facing slopes. The area represents a scenic roadless island within view of the town of Thompson Falls.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

The area is essentially blanketed by all or parts of 19 oil and gas leases. There are 80 mining claims, mostly centered in the southeastern corner near Liver Peak. Molybdenum, copper, tungsten, lead, zinc and silver are potential minerals in the area.

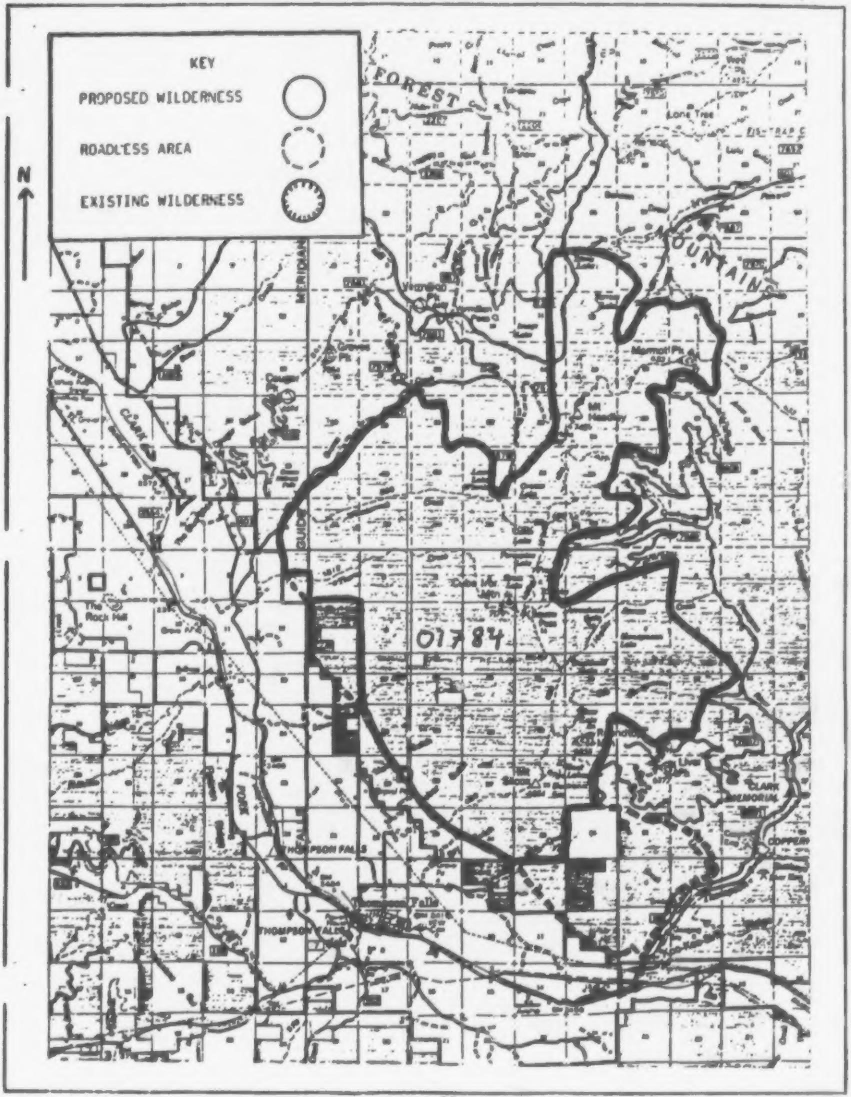
Suitable timber is found on 18,833 acres, mostly on the lower slopes. The Forest Service, in its Proposed Plan, intends to emphasize grizzly bear management in the majority of the area, using limited timber harvest and fire as management tools.

Grazing is confined to the western border of the area and would be unaffected by wilderness designation.

Recreation and wildlife resources are very high. The area is quite popular with local residents and wilderness designation would be an asset to the tourist economy of Thompson Falls.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

Boundary adjustments have been made to exclude mining claims and private land, mainly in the southern part of the area near Liver Peak. The boundary was drawn back from the Forest boundary to assure a supply of firewood, posts and poles, etc., for local residents.


KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS
N
FOREST
MOUNTAIN
MERIDIAN
GUIDE
Lone Tree
Mt Headley
The Rock Hill
FORK
THOMPSON FALLS
CLARK MEMORIAL
COPPER
01784

LOLO CREEK - 1805

Forest: Lolo
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 14,660
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 3,990

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This area is a logical northward extension of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area to include the north and east slopes of the spectacular Lolo Peak, visible from Missoula.

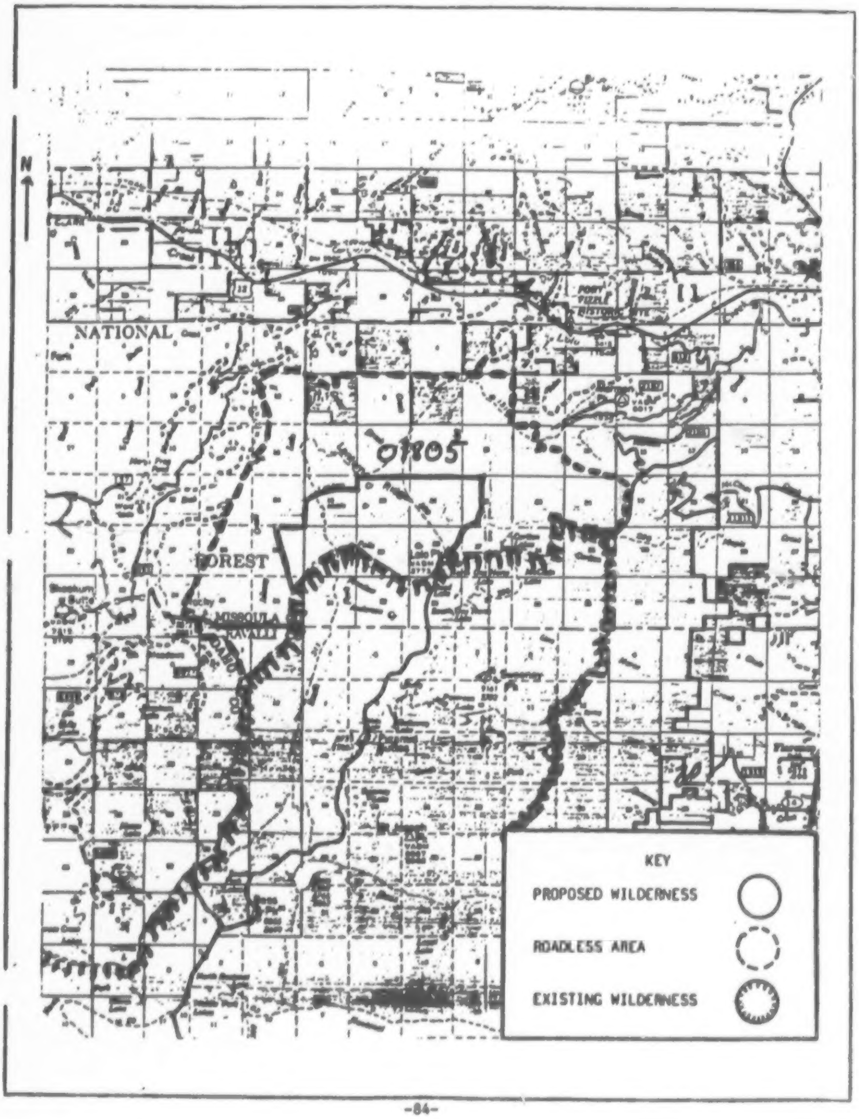
The area is heavily used by Missoula area recreationists. The South Fork of Lolo Creek, Johnny Creek and Mill Creek attract fishermen while hunters are drawn to the mid to upper slopes which include important mountain goat habitat and elk summer range. There are 530 acres of riparian habitat within the roadless area which provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

Seven issued oil and gas leases cover about 75 percent of the roadless acreage and ten mining claims are found in the southwest corner of the area. Suitable timberlands, mostly on the lower slopes, include 6200 acres. One grazing allotment is found in the area but most of the suitable grazing land is found in riparian areas along the South Fork of Lolo Creek. Recreation resources are high year round, including hunting, fishing, skiing, mountaineering, snowmobiling, trail bike and 4 wheel drive use and environmental education activities.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The proposed boundary represents a carefully derived compromise between interest groups represented on the Lolo National Forest Task Force. Topographic features were used, when possible, to create a boundary which minimizes resource conflicts. Timber and mineral conflicts were basically eliminated as were most conflicts associated with the proposed Mormon Creek Ski area.


N
NATIONAL
FOREST
MISSOULA
RAVALLI
01805
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS

WELCOME CREEK ADDITION - 01806

Forest: Lolo
1983 Roadless Area Net Acres: 1,100
Recommended Wilderness Acres: 1,100

I. WILDERNESS ATTRIBUTES:

This area is an addition to the existing Welcome Creek Wilderness. Wildlife and fishery values are the primary attributes. The area is within the nationally famous Rock Creek watershed. It is important as an elk security area and moose habitat, and is potential mountain sheep habitat.

II. RESOURCE VALUES:

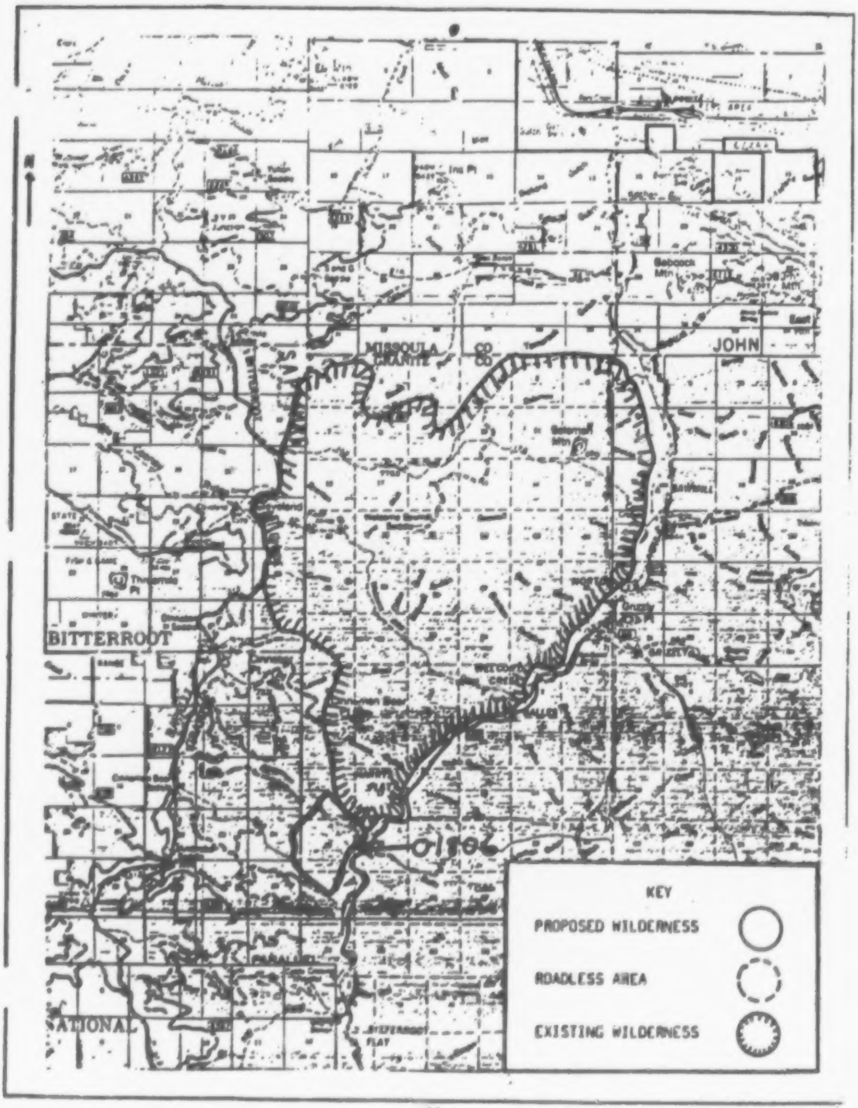
Eighty-five percent of the area is leased for oil and gas. Mineral potential is not high and no claims are staked within the boundary.

Timber values are relatively low, with 319 acres classed as commercial timberland.

Watershed values are very high as Rock Creek is a Blue Ribbon trout stream.

III. BOUNDARY RATIONALE:

The boundary corresponds with the original RARE I boundary.


MISSOULA
GRANITE
JOHN
BITTERROOT
NATIONAL
Babcock Mtn
01506
KEY
PROPOSED WILDERNESS
ROADLESS AREA
EXISTING WILDERNESS

Statement of
Thomas C. Osborne
Executive Vice President
ASARCO Incorporated

on S. 2850

Before the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

August 9, 1984

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Thomas C. Osborne. I am Executive Vice President of ASARCO Incorporated with responsibilities for that Company's mining and exploration activities. ASARCO is a major producer of nonferrous and precious metals and has a long history of mineral activity in Montana. We operate a silver-lead smelter at East Helena, and in recent years have perhaps been better known in the State for the development of our silver-copper mine near Troy.

Clearly, Montana public land use decisions are of great concern to ASARCO. We have followed with interest and have participated in the processes of dialogue, fact gathering, and consensus building which has taken place in the State over the past few years with respect to classification of land studied under RARE II. The Montana congressional delegation, the Governor's office, and the various environmental leaders, industry representatives, and other Montanans who have participated are to be commended in their sincere efforts to deal with the relative values of specific sites rather than debating on general terms of simply more wilderness acreage or less wilderness acreage. All of us can agree that there are many areas in the State of Montana which either through their unique beauty, rich wildlife habitat, or other unspoiled characteristics should be guarded from careless or frivolous exploitation. Bill S. 2850 preserves such areas in a way that attempts to minimize the conflict with those mineral and other commodity values which can provide, through wise husbandry, the economic benefits essential to maintain the standard of living expected by the citizenry of the State, and which can contribute significantly to the industrial strength of this nation.

One of the RARE II areas of particular interest to ASARCO and with respect to which we have participated extensively in attempts to reach a consensus, is RARE II No. 1-622, probably better known as the proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness. This RARE II area, located as it is within a stone's throw from our operating Troy mine, and covering as it does potential mineral land as well as land in part characterized by beautiful rugged alpine scenery, and in part by diverse wildlife-rich terrains, is certainly one of those endowed with the kind of overlapping values which provide all the elements conducive to controversy. In mutual recognition of this, we and some of the Montana environmental leaders sat down together over a year ago to see if a joint position could be worked out consistent with the deep concerns of both those favoring wilderness preservation and mineral exploration.

The process went on for more than a year, and involved extensive interchange of environmental information and geological exploration data. For our part, we felt that several areas on the east side of the RARE II No. 1-622 adjacent to our Troy mine should be left open for exploration and possible development, since we believe those areas, although not likely to produce mineral deposits which could be developed independently, might contain reserves which would make it possible to extend the life of the Troy mine which, based on known reserves, is now limited to about fourteen years.

At the same time during the discussions we acknowledged that the showing of surface mineralization elsewhere in RARE II 1-622, including those at Star Gulch near Pillick Ridge, are not of further exploration interest. Probably the most telling evidence for this is that ASARCO formerly held unpatented mining claims there which we have abandoned owing to negative exploration results. Further, we feel that the general area of Pillick Ridge has little mineral potential because although host rocks for Troy-type mineralization are present as they are in much of this part of Montana, our regional studies show the mineralization to be very weak even though traces are widespread. The beds dip steeply and are structurally complex which means that even if mineralization of the quality that we mine at Troy were found (and nothing approaching that occurs), we would not be able to economically mine the deposits by the necessary low-cost bulk methods. We therefore felt it acceptable that these parts of the RARE II No. 1-622 area be included in a proposed Scotchman Peaks Wilderness, and as a result we jointly agreed with the environmental leaders that the area shown on the map attached to this testimony, comprising about 60,000 acres, represents a reasonable compromise between wilderness and mineral values based on dispassionate review of factual information.

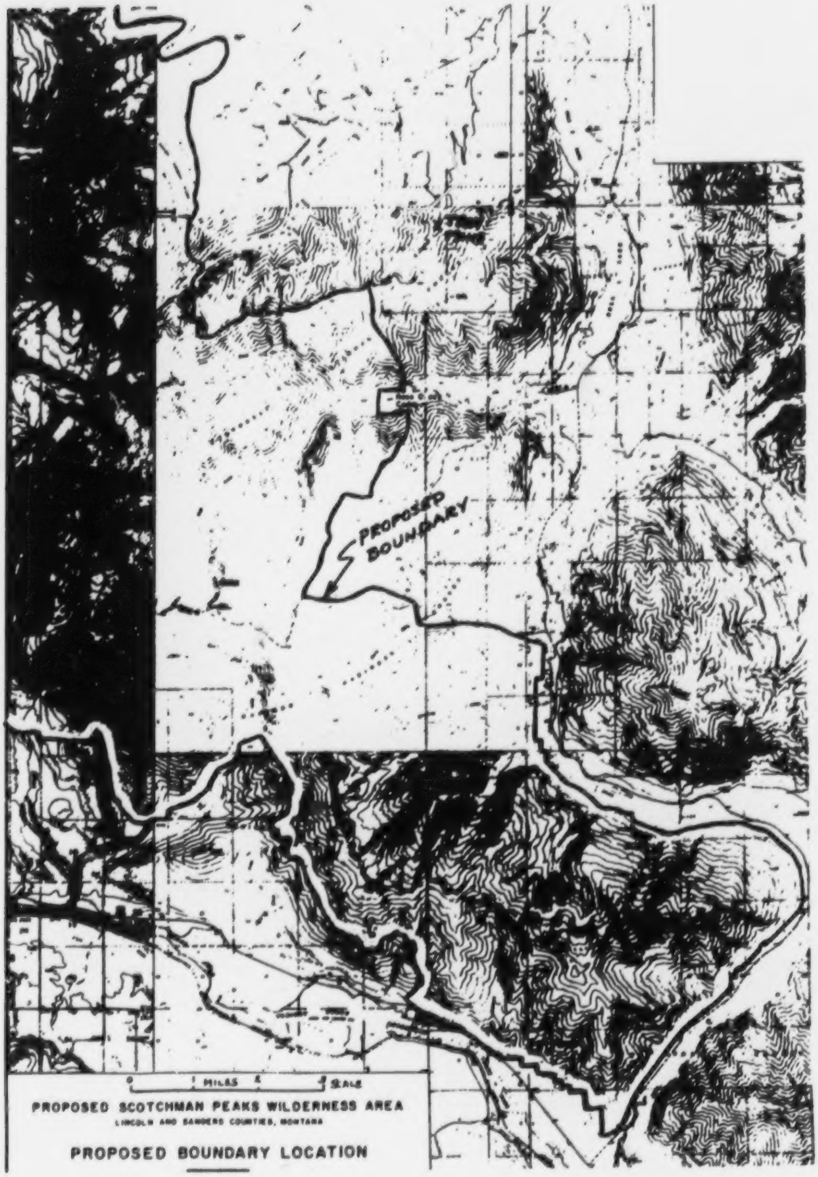
In general with respect to the bill, we realize that although it represents the culmination of a long and difficult process, there may still be further adjustments in boundaries and in some of the classifications prior to it finally becoming law. We trust that any further adjustments will be made in the light of careful analysis of site specific data. We stand willing to assist in any way we can with that process as it proceeds, particularly in respect to any prospective changes in the boundaries of proposed additions to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and of the proposed new Trout Creek Wilderness, all in the Montana National Forest; also Scotchman Peaks where our map may be of use to you.

Finally, we commend the authors of the bill for specifically providing in Section 7 that designation of wilderness areas in Montana will not lead to creation of protective perimeters or buffer zones, and also for not designating any of the proposed wilderness as Class I under the Clean Air Act. These actions remove any possibility of ambiguities which could only lead to future unproductive controversy.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to present ASARCO's views to the Committee. I will be pleased to answer any questions.

Thomas C. Osborne
Executive Vice President
ASARCO Incorporated
August 9, 1984

To Accompany Statement of
T. C. Osborne, ASARCO Incorporated
on S. 2850
Before the
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
U. S. Senate
August 9, 1984


PROPOSED BOUNDARY
0 1 MILES 2 3 SCALE
PROPOSED SCOTCHMAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA
LINCOLN AND SANDERS COUNTIES, MONTANA
PROPOSED BOUNDARY LOCATION

Statement of

MONTANA EAST SIDE FOREST PRACTICES COMMITTEE

for the

U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserve Water

On S.2850

By
David J. Hammons
Secretary-Treasurer
P. O. Box 1129
Bozeman, MT 59715

The Montana East Side Forest Practices Committee is an association of forest products companies engaged in timber harvesting, primary wood processing and reforestation in Montana primarily east of the Continental Divide. Our companies provide direct employment for over 1,500 people. Our members are concerned about the continuing erosion of the commercial forestland base. They cannot continue to operate their firms and provide jobs if sufficient timber supplies are not available to them. We are expressly concerned about the future needs of the nation relating to wood, wood products, oil and gas, minerals, grazing, water yield, motorized recreation and wildlife.

The wood products firms east of the Continental Divide in Montana are heavily dependent upon Forest Service timber. Competition for this timber is very intense. Without a wilderness bill, this will result in the additional closure of wood processing firms and the important job they provide. within the past eight years, the increased competition for the dwindling supply of Forest Service timber has forced the closure of 13 mills in our area.①

To summarize the Subcommittee hearings in Montana during the summer of 1983, it would be for an omnibus wilderness bill for Montana. Thanks to our delegation, we now have a proposed bill. However, in order to have a viable timber industry east of the Continental Divide, some minor boundary, classification and language changes will have to be incorporated into the final wilderness bill.

Provided in the remaining portion of this testimony are the changes that are required for our industry.

EAST PIONEER AREA - (Exhibit A)

There are 22,400 acres of commercial timberlands within this proposed area. We need a boundary adjustment (Exhibit A) to remove 7,007 acres which contain 5,834 acres of commercial timberlands.

ITALIAN PEAK, REPUBLIC MOUNTAIN & GATES OF THE MOUNTAINS AREAS

We do not object to your proposals for these areas.

WEST PIONEER RECREATION AREA

We would support your proposal for this area if you included some minor language changes. This area must include motorized as well as non-motorized recreation based upon current use. We will not support any wilderness classification in this area and our support is conditional upon release of the 80,000 acres for multiple use management by the Forest Service.

WEST BIG HOLE AREA

We believe the Forest Planning Process should resolve the land allocation in this area.

NORTH BIG HOLE ADDITION TO THE PINTLER

We support the Forest Service recommendation for area B1-001, approximately 6,000 acres.

①Kandice - Anaconda, Brand S - Boulder, Louisiana-Pacific Corp. - Browning, Montana Pole - Butte, H&D Tie and Timber - Garrison, Brand S - Lewistown, Burkland Stud - Livingston, Flint Valley - Philipsburg, Louisiana-Pacific Corp. - Philipsburg, Georgia Pacific - Roundup, Burkland Stud - West Yellowtone, and Castle Mtn. Corp. - White Sulphur Springs, Pack River - Maudlow.

UPPER EAST FORK ADDITION TO THE PINTLER

We cannot support your decision for this area because of the commercial timberland involved and the proposed Dexter Basin timber sale.

SILVER KING RECREATION AREA

Reclassify this area for management by the Forest Service under the Forest Planning Process.

PORCUPINE-BUFFALO HORN WILDLIFE AREA

We support the management recommendation in the Bill with additional language to protect existing motorized and non-motorized recreational opportunities.

ELECTRIC PEAK AREA

We cannot support any wilderness designation for this area because of the amount of commercial forests within your proposal.

FLINT RANGE AREA - (Exhibit B)

We cannot support your wilderness designation for this area because of the commercial forestland, developed lakes, and motorized use in this area. We recommend deletion of the timberland and developed lakes from any classification and the remaining area be classified for Special Management with current motorized and non-motorized use allowed.

LIONHEAD AREA - (Exhibit C)

There are 9,440 acres of commercial forestlands within your wilderness proposal. These acres will have to be removed before we can support your proposal.

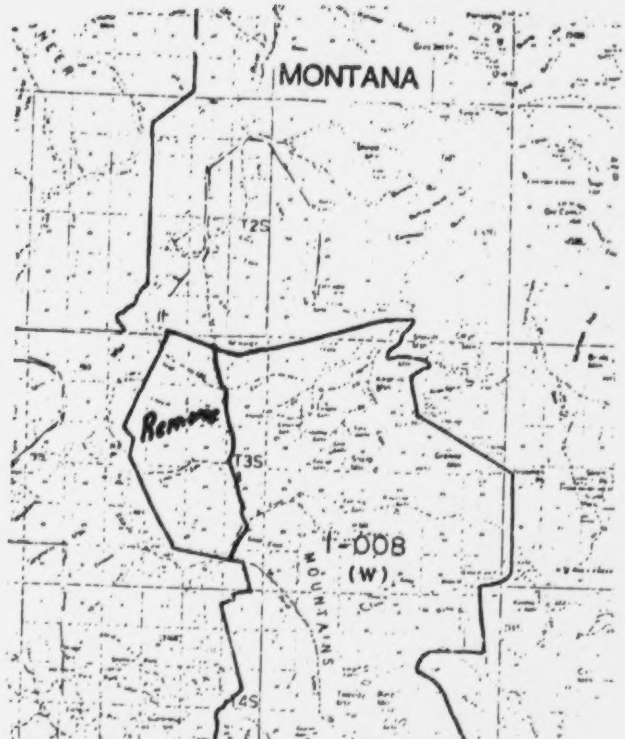
MIDDLE FORK JUDITH - (Exhibit D)

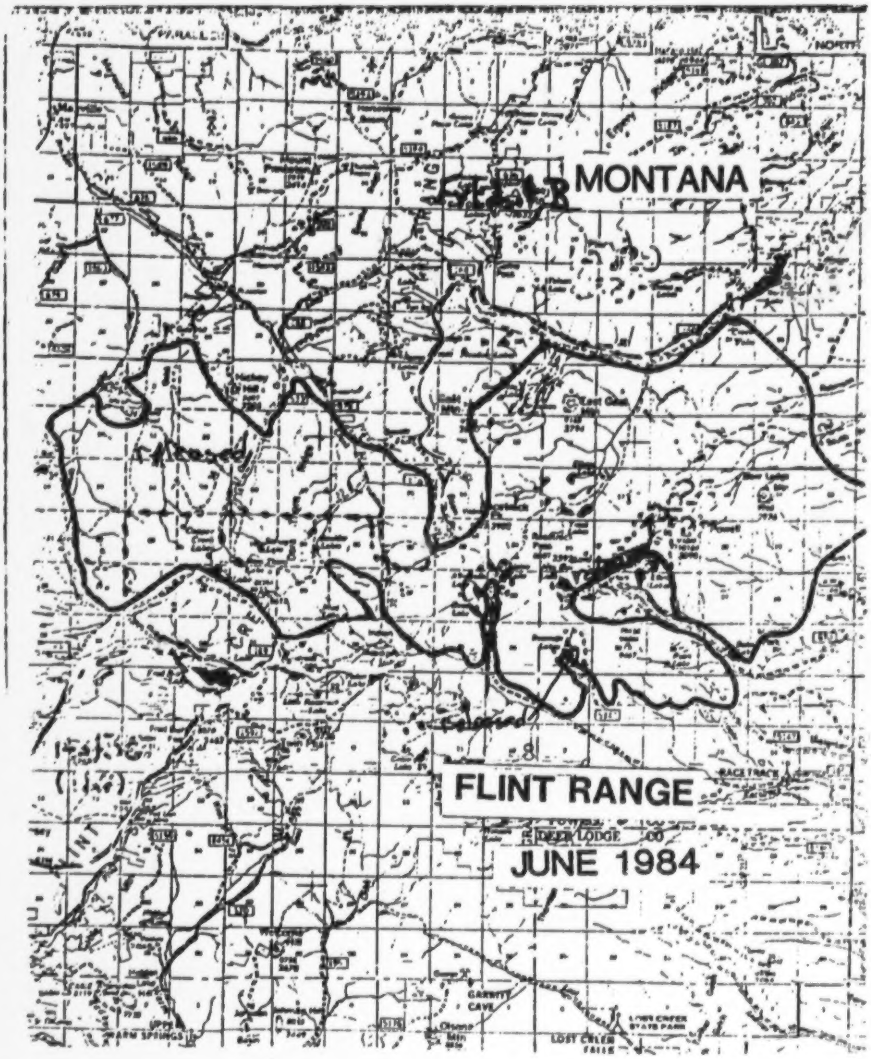
We propose a boundary change. Our proposal is to release all the area for multiple use under the Forest Planning Process except the Lost Fork drainage and the lower half of everything south of Woodchopper Ridge. The Special Management Area must include language to protect the existing motorized and non-motorized usage.

BIG SNOWIES - (Exhibit E)

We would support Special Management with existing motorized and non-motorized use in the Crystal Lake area and the Rock Creek watershed. The remaining area is to be released for multiple use under the Forest Planning Process.

Exhibit A


MONTANA
T2S
Remove
T3S
1-008
(W)
MOUNTAINS
T4S
T5S
SOUTH
EAST PIONEER
T6S
JUNE 1984
R11W


MONTANA
FLINT RANGE
DEER LODGE CO
JUNE 1984
RACETRACK
GARRITY CAVE
WARM SPRINGS
LOST CREEK STATE PARK
LOST CREEK FALLS
NORTH

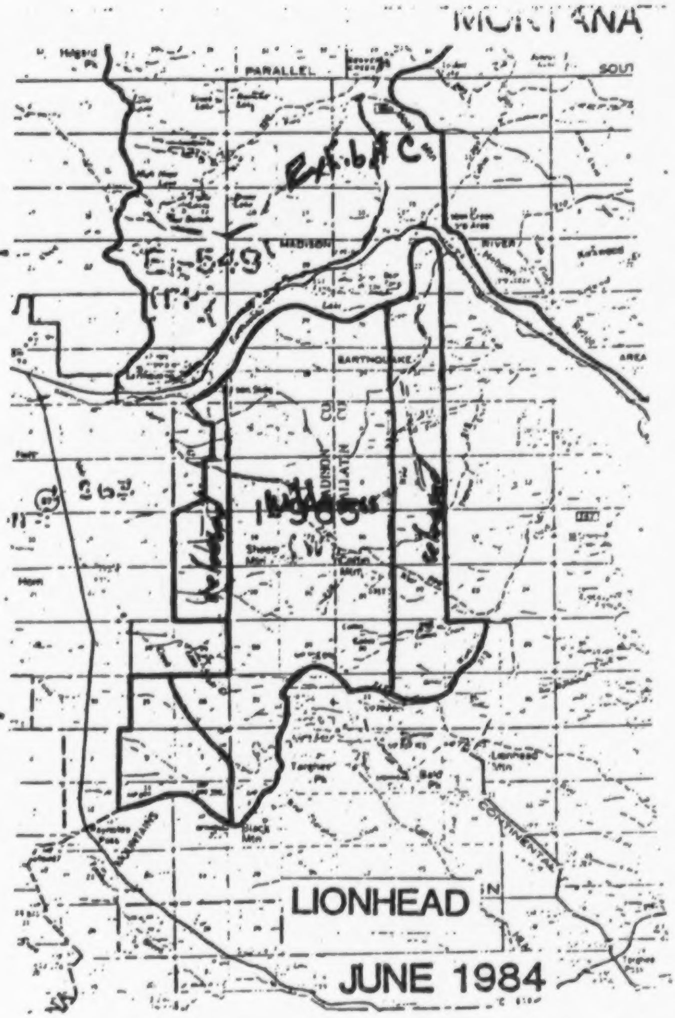

MONTANA
PARALLEL
MADISON
RIVER
EARTHQUAKE
AREA
E-549
CONTINENTAL
LIONHEAD
JUNE 1984

Figure 2.7.

JUNE 1984 RARE II BILL
SPECIAL AREA

Exhib.#D

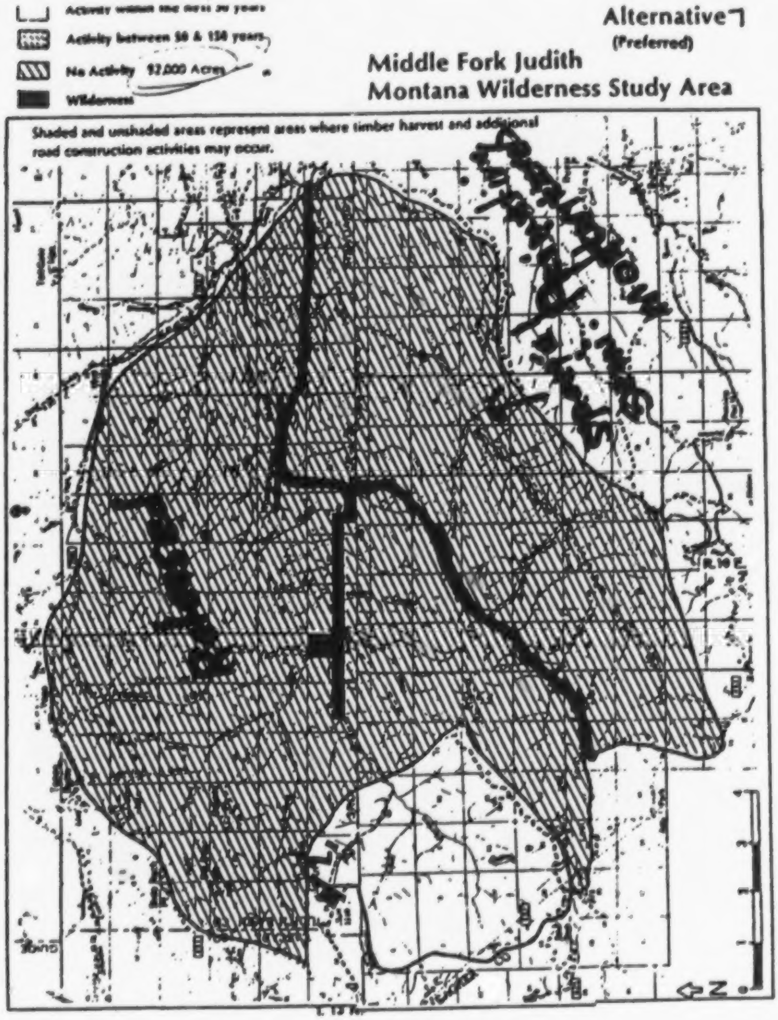
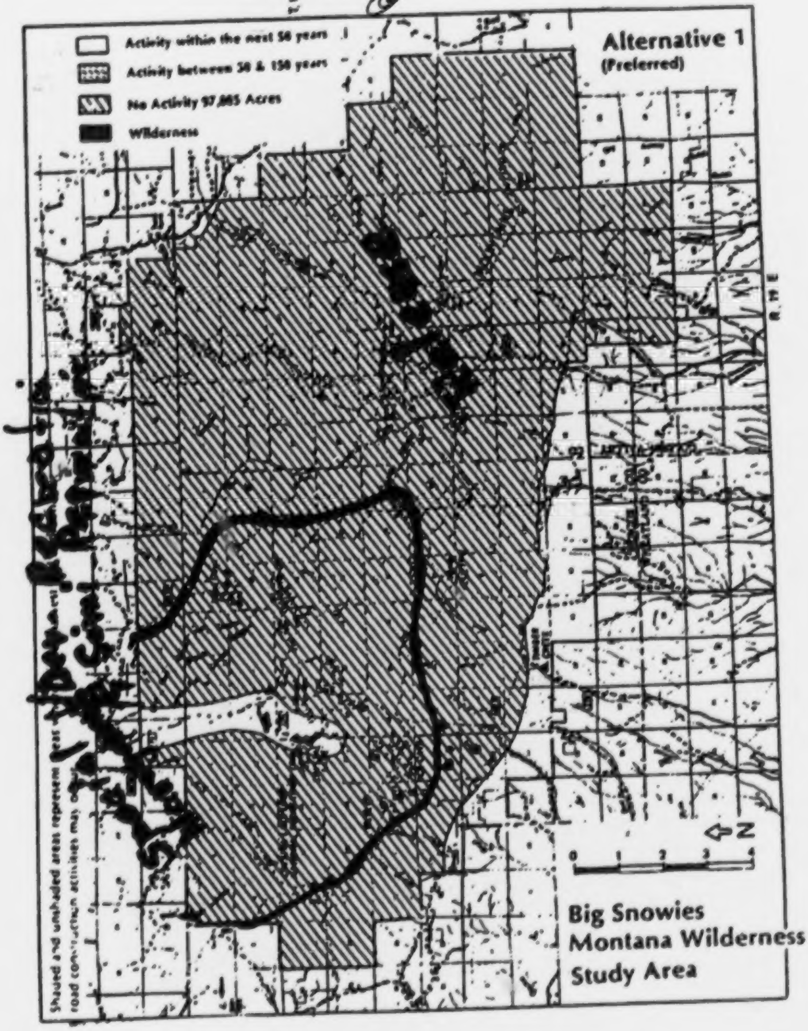

Activity within the next 50 years
Activity between 50 & 150 years
No Activity 92,000 Acres
Wilderness
Alternative 7
(Preferred)
Middle Fork Judith
Montana Wilderness Study Area
Shaded and unshaded areas represent areas where timber harvest and additional road construction activities may occur.
R.10E.
N

Figure 2.18

JUNE 1984 RARE II BILL
SPECIAL AREA

Exhibit E


☐ Activity within the next 50 years
▦ Activity between 50 & 150 years
▨ No Activity 97,885 Acres
■ Wilderness
Alternative 1
(Preferred)
Shaded and unshaded areas represent areas ... road construction activities may occur
Special Day Recreation
[illegible] Semi Primitive
N
0 1 2 3 4
Big Snowies
Montana Wilderness
Study Area

FTR
Ken Knudsen

NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION
1412 Sixteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 202—797-6800

August 9, 1984

The Honorable John Melcher
SH-730
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

As you know, the National Wildlife Federation is the nation's largest conservation/education organization, with over 4.1 million members nationwide, including 5000 Montana members. The Federation joins its state affiliate, the Montana Wildlife Federation, in opposing significant portions of S. 2850 and H.R. 6001, the "Montana Wilderness Act of 1984." The future habitat requirements of big game, sport fish, and other wildlife species in the Northern Rockies is often best served by wilderness designation of the region's remaining wild lands. Unfortunately, the amount of acreage proposed for wilderness designation in the Montana bill, as well as the number of areas proposed for wilderness designation, falls disappointingly short of what is needed.

Another problem with the Montana bill is the various substitute designations for wilderness, for example, "wildlife areas", "scenic areas", "hiking areas", "recreation areas", and "special management areas". Such designations do not assure the same level of protection for wildlife habitats as does wilderness. For example, it is unclear from the description of the proposed "Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area" (Section 13), just which types of activities will be permitted and which will not; there is no definition of the term "semiprimitive recreation"; it is unclear whether mineral location and mineral leasing activities will or will not be allowed; and finally, though the section indicates that the proposed area will "in part" be managed for "wildlife values and semiprimitive roadless recreation", it is unclear what the nature of the "other parts" of proposed management scheme will be.

We recommend as an alternative to the special management categories that these areas either be designated as wilderness areas (with appropriate boundary adjustments as necessary), or be placed into a "further study" classification which mandates the protection of wilderness values until a final determination of their status is made by Congress.

NWF is especially supportive of full wilderness protection for the Rocky Mountain Front, and West and North Big Hole areas. It is my hope that the Montana Congressional delegation will continue to work with the Montana Wildlife Federation to resolve the issues surrounding the Montana Wilderness Act.

Sincerely,

Lynn A. Greenwalt

Lynn A. Greenwalt
Vice President for
Resources Conservation

LAG:da

FOR
Ken Knudsen

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF BILL CUNNINGHAM, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR OF THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION CONCERNING THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT, S.2850 FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVED WATER SUBCOMMITTEE WASHINGTON, D.C. PUBLIC HEARING--August 9, 1984

Bill Cunningham

I wish to offer this statement as preliminary testimony on the Montana Wilderness Act, S.2850.

The Montana Wilderness Association is our Nation's oldest statewide wilderness conservation organization having been established in 1958. Since then our membership has studied, visited and monitored the management of virtually every federal-managed roadless area in Montana. We have painstakenly prepared well-researched wilderness proposals for each of the 10 national forests in the State. Many of these citizen initiatives are now reflected in the carefully-documented Montana Wildlands Coalition Alternative for approximately 1.9 million acres of protected Wilderness. Unfortunately, few of these long-held Wilderness recommendations are contained in the Delegation bill that was introduced on June 29.

With a nonwilderness release to Wilderness ratio of more than 7 to 1 S.2850 can hardly be called a balanced approach to wildlands allocation. This lack of balance and skewness toward development has been dramatically illustrated by an overwhelming adverse reaction from numerous citizens throughout Montana. Traditional wilderness opponents have either remained silent, made token opposition to "too much" wilderness or, in some cases, actually embraced the bill. In contrast, virtually all of the expressed public reaction to the bill has occurred in the form of outrage and opposition from a broad cross-section of Montanans who want more of their wilderness heritage protected.

I'm certain that our Delegation has already received this signal loud and clear. It would be too easy to simply say, "O.K., let's kill the bill". But the issues are too important and we've come too far to take the easy way out. A 1984 bill can indeed become a reality if its scope is limited to the one, central issue that was the focus of last year's Delegation field hearings in Montana; resolution of RARE II. If the bill is properly and fairly limited to the central question of RARE II many of the most objectionable features of the present bill will automatically fall out.

Specifically, we strongly recommend and urge that the following components of the current version of S.2850 be deleted from the bill:

1) All five of the Montana Wilderness Study Act Areas (S.393) contained in the bill should be removed and individually considered in subsequent legislation as Congress contemplated when S.393 was passed in 1977. These Congressionally-mandated WSA's exhibit exceptionally high wilderness characteristics which have not yet been objectively studied and displayed to the public by the Forest Service. Further, the S.393 areas are not legally subject to the 9th Circuit Court Decision on RARE II due to their separate legislative status. At

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least one of the areas, the Hyalite, hasn't even been studied and released to the public in draft form. We support the legislated land trade but not at the expense of the wilderness resource in this integral part of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. BN has no right to dictate a nonwilderness allocation decision for the Porcupine area as a condition to the land trade. The question ofland ownership in the Hyalite WSA should be kept separate from the question of land allocation.

Because it was our understanding that the S.393 areas would NOT be in the bill the MWA and other conservation groups have not yet formulated specific, detailed recommendations for these priority wildlands. We respectfully request the opportunity to do so in timely, subsequent legislation.

2) BLM lands have no place in a Montana RARE II bill and, as such, the release of the Bitter Creek WSA before the FLPMA study has been completed in clearly inappropriate in this bill.

3) We are gravely concerned about the adverse policy implications of the 11 different "special management areas" in S.2850. Each SMA seems to be different, thereby creating a hodge-podge of random formulas without benefit of a carefully-defined national generic system. A review of the language for 10 of the 11 SMA's shows a weak, inconsistent approach; lacking in any meaningful protection. Only the Jewel Basin Hiking Area contains strong prescriptions which raises the obvious question of why not put the area in the Wilderness System? These SMA's raise the spectre of a "third system" of competitive designations that could signal the end of the Wilderness System. In addition, each one of the SMA's is well qualified for Wilderness protection and should be so designated. As such, each SMA should be part of a larger Wilderness designation or at least placed in a protective "Hold" category.

4) We strongly oppose the unwise, unnecessary and inappropriate deletion of the 1700 acre Goose Lake Basin from the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. We cannot accept a damaging precedent which would in effect invite continued erosion of the Wilderness concept and future attempts to carve out land from Wilderness boundaries to accommodate special interests. Contrary to press reports, Goose Lake was extensively considered by Congress in minute detail which is well documented in Senator Lee Metcalf's June 10, 1977 introductory statement as well as in subsequent House and Senate Committee Reports. I personally discussed Goose Lake with Lee Metcalf and he felt strongly that despite the mining claims the Wilderness values of this spectacular basin were too important to be left out of the Wilderness. Further, Goose Lake is a significant spawning grounds for cutthroat trout.

Once the bill is cleaned up to properly address the RARE II question we urge more careful and deliberative consideration of the Montana Wildlands Coalition compromise proposal for approximately 1.9 million acres of wilderness management which represents only about 1/3 of the remaining roadless areas in Montana. We will never again have a comparable opportunity to save irreplaceable wilderness resources with such high, positive social and economic values with so little in the way of commodity and user conflict. Ironically, below cost subsidized timber sales with advance "hard money" roads constitute the single most pressing threat to these important wildlands. Any yet, negative timber values on steep, marginal growing sites should not even be considered a conflict with positive wilderness and wildlife values.

In terms of specifics, we do support the following Wilderness proposals in the existing bill: Lost Water Canyon (although contiguous recommended BLM and NPS wildlands should be added in subsequent legislation); Cabinet Wilderness additions (although the mining deletion in McKay Creek is unwarrented); Mt. Hefty and Tuchuck for the enduring protection of extremely productive grizzly habitat (although the release of Thompson-Seton because of "unmanageability" is not justified); the Mission Mtns. addition on the North End; the Monture Creek addition to the Scapegoat Wilderness as per the negotiated BMA/timber industry agreement; the Lolo Creek Addition and Bitterroot additions to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness; the Great Burn (Hoodoo--although some additional protection on both sides of the Clearwater Crossing is needed); the Bitterroot and Deerlodge Forest additions to the Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness; the 30,700 acre core of the Little Blackfoot (although the sizable elk herd in the area is threatened by planned roading and logging on all sides within the important 18,000 acre area to be released); the additions to the Gates of the Mountains; the East Pioneers (although the plateau of critical mountain goat habitat along Canyon Creek should be added for a boundary of about 80,000 acres); the core of Italian Peaks with consideration given to the contiguous 40,000 acres of wildlands.

All of the other proposed Wildernesses contain inadequate boundaries which need specific adjustment for the protection of highly valued wildland resources. Examples include:

1) Lionhead--Upper Watkins Creek should be restored for a 26,500 acre boundary due to critical grizzly bear habitat and the need to insure protection of a very scenic basin and Lionhead Peak itself. Snowmobile interests have greatly exaggerated the importance of the area for snowmobiling.
2) The Rocky Mountain Front--an unequalled wildland and wildlife resource of national significance and an integral part of the Bob Marshall ecosystem. The BMA boundary proposal of 224,000 acres of Wilderness additions on the Front would accommodate all existing andpotential developed recreation while maintaining this incredibly spectacular wild country.
3) Flint Creek Range--Dolus Lake Basin should be added to the proposed Wilderness due to its high scenic and wildland values as opposed to the marginally speculative mineral potential of the area.
4) North Big Hole--The entire Montana Wildlands Coalition strongly supports the NBH ranchers in their efforts to protect the entire 33,000 acre addition. Key elk and other wildlife habitat is threatened by the below cost Howell Creek timber sale and roading. This important watershed for the Big Hole River is well qualified and deserving of Wilderness protection in its own right.
5) Scotchman Peaks--we strongly urge acceptance of the unique negotiated agreement between ASARCO and the Montana Wildlands Coalition for a 60,000 acre Wilderness that would protect the Ross Creek Cedar grove and the vital Pillick Ridge grizzly travel corridor while allowing ASARCO to explore in Cub Creek and portions of Ross and Dry Creeks. Because of the steepness of the slopes and the difficulty of access there is no legitimate timber conflict in Scotchmans.

In short, we urge acceptance of the conservationist compromise proposal sponsored by the Montana Wildlands Coalition and submitted to the Montana Delegation by MWC Chairman Jim Richard on June 8, 1984. Areas which lack agreement during the short time frame of 1984 must be placed in a protective further planning or Hold status until Congress makes a final allocation decision. This even-handed approach is only fair given the tension between opposing sides.

I request that this statement be made a part of the official hearing record on S.2850.

FTR

PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

414 E. Callender
Livingston, Montana 59047
406-222-6120

August 6, 1984

The Honorable
Senator John Melcher and
Chairman, Public Lands and Reserved Waters Subcommittee
Room 358
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators:

It is our request that Section 4 of S.2850 be unanimously supported by your committee and the Senate, and that it be revised to conform with the boundary lines recommended, after thorough investigations, by the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Geological Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Mines in 1977-1978.

Sincerely,

PARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jim Todd
Jim Todd, Chairman

Cliff Olson
Cliff Olson, member

Ken Spalding
Ken Spalding, member

JT/vr

The Big Sky Country

MONTANA STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CAPITOL STATION
HELENA, MONTANA 59620

REPRESENTATIVE HARRISON G. FAGG
HOUSE DISTRICT 63
HELENA ADDRESS:
1810 WINNE
HELENA, MONTANA 59601
PHONE (406) 442-1465
HOME ADDRESS:
1414 MYSTIC DRIVE
BILLINGS, MONTANA 59102
PHONE (406) 252-5898

COMMITTEES:
BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES

Tony Bevinetto
Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee
Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 308
Washington, D.C. 20510

August 21, 1984

Dear Tony:

I was unable to attend the Hearing on the Montana Wilderness held before the Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee, August 9, 1984. I would, however, appreciate it if the following could be added as a record of the hearing.

Prior to the Enactment of the Legislation on the Beartooth - Absaroka Wilderness, I first drove the boundaries of the area with Mr. Teddy Roe of Lee Metcalf's staff, as well as members of the staff of the House and Senate Interior Committees and subsequently back-packed with them into the Aero Lake and Skytop Lake area of the Beartooths. Several observations should be made regarding these trips:

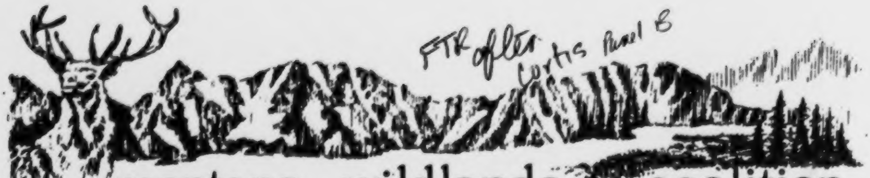
1. We visited Goose Lake on this trip - taking a jeep trip into the area. Special attention was caused to this are Mr. Roe informed me that it was Senator Metcalf's particular interest to see it included in the Wilderness area.
2. As an outgrowth of this trip - several minor boundary adjustments were made. I.E. The Woodbine Faces area was added, some minor directions were marked such as the Lake Fork area.

The Main purpose of the trip was to establish the final boundary and Goose Lake, contrary to Senator Melcher's comment was included.

Sincerely,

Harrison G. Fagg (oar)
Harrison G. Fagg
HARRISON G. FAGG & ASSOCIATES

HGF:law



FTR after Curtis Panel B

montana wildlands coalition

August 9, 1984

TO: The Montana Congressional Delegation and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

This is the preliminary statement of James Richard, James Curtis, and Arnold Bolle who are the elected representatives of the Montana Wildlands Coalition. More than a year ago several of us in the environmental community reached an understanding with members of the Montana Congressional Delegation that, in order to develop a more basic and orderly process for consideration of a Montana Wilderness Bill, we would do two things: first, get our act together - which we did by forming the Montana Wildlands Coalition involving essentially all of the interested groups in Montana (about 45 of them) - and second, to work with all members of the delegation. We have sought to do so.

Our goal throughout has been to provide you with the best possible basis for decisions concerning allocation of the remaining roadless lands in the National Forests of Montana, the RARE II lands. While we at first considered including the S-393 and BLM lands, it became clear that this was far too ambitious and not necessary at this time, because these lands are protected and under study. The immediate need is to resolve allocation problems concerning RARE II lands.

At your request we held a series of meetings with official delegates of commodity groups in Montana, i.e., timber, livestock, mining, oil and gas, and vehicular recreation (mainly snowmobilers). The purpose was twofold: first, to see how much agreement might be reached on lands to be allocated for wilderness or release, and second, to document clearly the bases for differences where agreement could not be reached.

During six weeks of intensive sessions we reviewed every potential RARE II wilderness area in each national forest in Montana. It soon became clear that the industry representatives were in no position to discuss the relative merits of allocation. The organizations were on record with resolutions opposing any new wilderness designation in Montana, and privately (and often publicly) they announced that their intent was to abolish, or at least have free development access into, established Wilderness. These meetings were neither an easy or pleasant task for us, but we conscientiously carried them out, both to honor your request and because we hoped that they would be a step toward developing a sounder basis for decision.

P.O. Box 1717, Helena, MT 59624

On the latter point, the discussions were a failure. The only product of our sessions was the repeated objection of the commodity groups to every area considered for wilderness designation in Montana. That was the product that was sent to the delegation. The second step, which we understood was to follow, was to examine and evaluate clearly the basis for disagreement for those areas where significant controversy exists. We were and are prepared to do so, but so far we have not had that opportunity. We hope that we can provide you with such an evaluation during these Congressional Hearings so that the necessary changes can be made in this proposed Montana Wilderness Act.

We recognize that these land allocation decisions are political. But we believe that the best political decisions require sound information about the land and its potential. In our estimation the commodity actions are based only on pressure politics and are ignoring the land values. Commodity interets do not want this evaluation to be made because their claims ignore certain basic facts:

1. Where timber is sold below cost, the timber land has a negative value to society and so cannot be compared with, or offset, positive values such as wilderness,

2. Where timber cannot be harvested economically by industry, even with maximum loss to the government, this land should not be kept in the timber base, nor can it have a value to offset positive values such as wilderness,

3. Grazing privileges are protected by the Wilderness Act. If further assurance for grazers is needed, it can be considered,

4. Claims of snowmobilers were wild and confusing, almost never substantiated, certainly never evaluated. Much more specific and documented information is needed before long-term commitments are made on this use of National Forest lands.

The Montana Wilderness Act of 1984 contains only a few elements that we endorse and support. It also has many items that we feel must be changed. These involve specific areas, which will be discussed individually by others, and certain general items which we mention briefly:

- We cannot hope to complete the allocation job with this bill. While doing so has its attractions, trying to do so creates more problems than it solves. So let's be realistic and do as much as we can and lay the groundwork for complettion in a reasonable time. We can complete a limited RARE II bill at this time, not a total one.

- We fully believe that this bill must include a category of "hold for further study" where agreement cannot be reached or where decisions needed to be delayed for lack of knowledge, to clear up ownership problems, or for other reasons. Without such a provision, we find it impossible to move toward an acceptable bill at this time. Hasty decisions now will be regreted forever.

Arnold Bolle

Jim Curtis
Jim Curtis

Jim E Richard
Jim Richard

January 6, 1983

The BOB MARSHALL Alliance

Box 4266 Missoula, MT 59806

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Wilderness Alliance
Backcountry Horsemen of Missoula
Bitterroot Backcountry Horsemen
Canyon Coalition
Columbia Falls Backcountry Horsemen
Defenders of Wildlife
East Slope Backcountry Horsemen
Environmental Information Center
Five Valleys Audubon
Flathead Resource Organization
Flathead Wildlife, Inc.
Flathead Backcountry Horsemen
Flathead Chapter, Montana Wilderness Association
Friends of the Bob Marshall
Friends of the Rocky Mountain Front
Last Chance Backcountry Horsemen
Mission Valley Backcountry Horsemen
Montana Outfitter and Guides Association
Montana Trappers Association
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montana Wilderness Association
Northwest Chapter of the Wolf Preservation Society
Polson Outdoors
Professional Wilderness Outfitters Association
Sierra Club, Montana Chapter
Student Action Center, University of Montana
Trout Unlimited, Colorado Council
Western Montana Fish and Game Association
Wildlife-Wildlands Institute
Wilderness Society
Wildlands and Resources Association

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MAX BARKER

SECRETARY-TREASURER: HANK FISCHER

Save the Bob.

City-County Building
316 North Park
Helena Montana 59623
Telephone 406/443-1010

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners

July 26, 1984

(letter sent to Montana Congressional delegation 7/27/84)

Dear Congressman:

We write with regard to the Montana wilderness bill recently introduced in Congress. Because much of the Bob Marshall Complex (Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Great Bear Wilderness Areas) and the Rocky Mountain Front is located in Lewis and Clark County, and because federal management of the Complex and the Front so strongly influences our lives and livelihoods, we ask that you consider our suggestions with the knowledge that your decisions will come to rest most directly - in the long run - with the residents of Lewis and Clark County.

We believe that the judgment to preserve roadless areas in federal lands is one which will yield substantial, lasting benefits to our county. We further believe that the best way to accomplish and manage such preservation is with federal wilderness designation. In this light, we wish to make two points:

1) More area in the Bob Marshall Complex and the Front should be designated as wilderness than those acreages proposed in the current bill.

2) The "special management" designation is one which, although immediately attractive as a (principally) recreational compromise, will eventually serve to undermine that objective for which wilderness designation is ideally suited: preservation.

In 1981, the Lewis and Clark County Commission adopted a resolution which opposed mineral exploration and leasing in the Bob Marshall Country. In so doing, the commission recognized that wilderness-managed land provides us with both a desirable living environment and a significant and stable economic opportunity.

In 1982, the commission further resolved to support wilderness designation for roadless areas in Lewis and Clark County; among these are the Renshaw Mountain and Falls Creek/Silver King areas on the Front. This resolution restated the belief that wilderness areas are "long lasting, stable sources of income and employment," as well as reaffirmed the wildlife and recreational benefits of additional wilderness.

Please know that both resolutions (copies atached) were adopted after much publicity and numerous, well-attended public hearings. Testimony was given by citizens and business people, as well as by professionals in assorted fields: geology, wildlife managment, forestry, and economics. Most senior citizen input favored additional wilderness, while representatives of mining and mineral interests were opposed. By adopting both resolutions, the commission felt that it was representing the majority on an often devisive issue. Please note also that county commission membership has changed often since 1981, yet wilderness support has not waned.

Certainly the most important factor in the complex issue of wilderness is economics. By most standards, the roadless areas of the front have negligible timber value. In fact, these roadless areas are undeveloped today probably because they offer little commercial timber value relative to millions of other acres of national forest lands.

With regard to oil and gas possibilities on the Front, we believe that the energy produced by (potential) oil and gas of the Front areas suitable for wilderness would fuel America's engines but briefly. A 1981 study* on the potentially producible oil and gas in the U. S. concluded that potential wilderness areas contain only 1.4% of the nation's oil and 1.0% of its gas. When it is considered that "potential wilderness areas" of this study are those defined by the Wilderness Society, we must conclude that the actual energy potential of wilderness areas proposed in Congress is much less.

Because Lewis and Clark County residents will live with Rocky Mountain Front decisions for a long time, we prefer the certainty of stable, long lasting employment benefits from wilderness to the ephemeral - and uncertain - economic gains to be had by mineral development.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The federal designation of "Wilderness" is the only management policy we know of that preserves the characteristic which is the common denominator of our interests in long-term economic stability, wildlife abundance, and resource preservation. That common denominator is roadless land, something which will eventually disappear on acreages proposed for "special management."

The potential wilderness areas of the Bob Marshall Complex and the Front are now roadless; we are unaware of any excessive road-oriented recreational pressure that would be cause to build new roads strictly for that purpose. We are unaware of professional opinion which holds that the natural, long-term interests of a diversified wildlife system are served by the construction of roads and subsequent motorized transportation.

*An independent study commissioned by the Economic Policy Department of the Wilderness Society and conducted by Economic Associates, Inc., under the direction of Leonard L. Fischman.

We believe that support for additional wilderness areas is strong among senior citizens, many of whom, having experienced booms, busts, depressions and dust bowls, are more cognizant than others of the need to husband resources, to temper consumption, and to cherish the stability and timelessness of those few areas in our world yet undisturbed. We have heard from no seniors who oppose additional wilderness for reasons of limited or overused vehicular access facilities.

We ask that you reconsider the designation of "special management", and that lands which are currently de facto wilderness - and which meet the criteria for wilderness management - be so designated.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Please consider our suggestions for wilderness classification as listed below (also see areas on attached map):

- Renshaw: Approximately 35,000 acres in the Lewis and Clark Forest, an integral part of the Bob Marshall/Scapegoat/Sun River Game Preserve complex on the eastern front. Preservation of this area will ensure the continued wildlife and big game hunting habitat so important to Lewis and Clark County residents. This area is recommended for wilderness by the Governor.

- Silver King/Falls Creek: Approximately 80,000 acres in both the Lewis and Clark and Helena Forests. We understand that this area, located entirely within Lewis and Clark County, received an extremely high rating for wilderness suitability by the Forest Service. Upon our own inspection, we agree. This acreage is worth much more to the nation and the long term local economy as a preserved natural area than as a potential source of minerals and slow-growing, east slope timber.

Monture Creek: (67,000 acres, shared by Powell, Flathead, and Lewis and Clark Counties) Apparently there is consensus among congressional delegates, the Governor, and the Board of County Commissioners on the suitability of this area for wilderness.

- Holter (2,400 acres) and Big Log (9,212 acres): These two parcels comprise a practical addition to the Gates of the Mountains Wilderness Area. The Forest Service map indicates that the Big Log addition would extend the Wilderness south to the Beaver Creek Road and that the Holter additions would fill in niches along the Missouri River and rough edges of the existing wilderness. We know of no specific timber or mineral related opposition to these additions. We understand that there is wilderness consensus here.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Once again, we ask that you increase wilderness acreages in the Bob Marshall Complex, particularly along the Rocky Mountain Front, in your congressional deliberations. We believe the current bill to be unsuitable and unrepresentative of the interests of Lewis and Clark County.

We ask further that you reconsider the adoption of "special management" areas in federal land management, as it is contrary to the objectives of wilderness management and to the ideals of preservation.

To fully understand the lands in question and our suggestions for their management, we think it is imperative that you see the potential wilderness additions first hand. Because the Renshaw and Falls creek additions, in particular, are truly such spectacular and deserving wilderness areas, and because your management decisions will have significant impact on Lewis and Clark County, we ask that you personally inspect the Front additions before making congressional decisions. In this regard, we stand ready to show you these areas at your convenience.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY

Linda Stoll-Anderson, Chairman

Bob Decker

Kathleen Ramey
Kathleen Ramey

dec
enc.

Great Falls Tribune, Aug. 6, 1984 page 19-7

Some Rockies' camps full, others are not, forester says

By BERT LINDLER
Tribune Staff Writer

AUGUSTA — There are vacancies in campgrounds along the eastern slopes of the Rockies, but some of the more popular wilderness destinations may already be overused, according to Forest Service figures.

Campground occupancy rates vary from less than 5 percent to about 30 percent along the eastern slopes, said Steve Solem, who heads recreation and wilderness management for the Lewis and Clark National Forest's Rocky Mountain District. Campgrounds are considered full when they reach 40 percent occupancy, which means they're full on weekends and used some during the rest of the week.

"Somewhere between 2001 and 2010 we're going to have to build some additional campgrounds," Solem said.

However, there's already more use in wilderness areas along the east slopes of the Rockies than Forest Service planners thought they could accommodate in 1981, Solem said. The wilderness management budget has increased since then, allowing the Forest Service to provide more recreation while protecting the wilderness, he said.

Last year there were 69,000 days of wilderness recreation use along the eastern slopes, although the Forest Service estimated the wilderness areas could handle only 47,000 days of recreation in 1981.

"If you're going to accommodate more use, you have to have better management of existing wilderness or more wilderness," Solem said. In wilderness, recreation must be regulated so it doesn't damage the wilderness itself. Now, as the Forest Service decides how to manage wilderness, it's focusing not on numbers of visitors but on the conditions that must be protected, Solem said.

Visitor use figures are determined by Forest Service counts made when employees are driving, riding horseback or walking through the forest. Then, the employees estimate the percentage of the visitors who were actually counted.

The opportunity for eastern Montanans to drive into the eastern slopes of the Rockies and camp, hunt and fish has been central in the wilderness controversy. Wilderness advocates have proposed designating 200,000 acres of additional wilderness along the eastern slopes. The congressional delegation recommended wilderness designation for 36,000 additional acres and special management for 33,000 acres.

Further wilderness designation would have harmed nonwilderness hunters and fishermen, families on outings and elderly couples in a camper, said Rep. Ron Marlenee, R-Mont. He said he didn't want Montanans to have to get reservations to go camping like residents of more populous states.

The four key areas for roadside camping along the eastern slopes are:

Marias Pass: Summit Camp-

See CAMPGROUNDS, 8-A

Campgrounds

From 7-A

ground, 21 sites, 20 percent occupancy.

Teton River: West Fork Campground, 5 sites, 5 percent occupancy; Mill Falls, 4 sites, 15 percent occupancy; Elko, 3 sites, 5 percent occupancy; Cave Mountain, 14 sites, 10 percent occupancy.

Sun River: Home Gulch, 15 sites, 25 percent occupancy; Mortimer Gulch, 28 sites, 30 percent occupancy.

Benchmark: Wood Lake, 7 sites, 30 percent occupancy; South Fork, 7 sites, 25 percent occupancy; Benchmark, 32 sites, 10 percent occupancy.

One reason the campgrounds aren't full is that about half the campers are camping alongside the road rather than in a campground where they will have to pay a daily fee. In some areas such as Benchmark and the Sun River Canyon, this has created problems, Solem said. Certain areas have been closed to overnight camping because they were being damaged.

If the campgrounds were full, existing campgrounds could be expanded or new campgrounds could be built in the existing corridors. Additional road corridors could be built into the mountains if the public felt that were necessary, Solem said. The Two Medicine and Badger drainages could be roaded. A road could be built from the Benchmark Road to Elk Creek. Before designation of the Scapegoat Wilderness, the Forest Service had proposed building a road up the Dearborn and down Straight Creek to pass under Scapegoat Mountain, Solem said.

"We can go from the extreme of all wilderness to the extreme where we have roaded recreation everywhere," but it would be better to end up between the extremes, Solem said.

One way the Forest Service can provide more public recreation opportunity is to terminate leases on private cabins or outfitter camps in a few key areas. The Forest Service terminated the lease on the Sky Mountain Ranch on Elk Creek because it occupied the most suitable area for camping, Solem said. Summer cabins at the head of Gibson Reservoir have leases that either have terminated or will terminate between now and 1992. The cabins will be removed so that hikers heading into the Bob Marshall Wilderness will have a place to camp. Now they are overusing one small spot on the edge of the wilderness, Solem said.

1984 AUG 10 PM 5:27

Paul D. Johnson
913 Hudson
Helena, MT 59601

August 8, 1984

Senator Max Baucus
1107 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

I am writing to register my grave disappointment with and strong objection to the recently introduced S. 2850/H.R. 6001, the alleged "Montana Wilderness Act of 1984." With all due respect, this unhappily drafted legislation is badly imbalanced. I cannot imagine what inspired the members of the Montana delegation to put their hands to such an unbridled travesty, but I must firmly urge you to withdraw S. 2850/H.R. 6001 and replace it with more responsible legislation.

I have carefully read S. 2850/H.R. 6001, and my objections are as follows:

(1) Out of 6,000,000 acres of wildland, S. 2850/H.R. 6001 would preserve less than 750,000 acres! The mere numbers alone convey the grossness of the inequity here. Over 5 million acres would be released to publicly subsidized mining, logging and roading. Some of the loveliest wilderness resources in the state would be left open to irreversible impact by developers. Federal managers in collusion with the extractive industries have consistently demonstrated an eagerness to quickly road, clearcut and mine released lands, leaving ruined wilderness as a bequest to future Montanans. S. 2850/H.R. 6001 is terribly important because of its irrevocability--released study lands quickly and permanently lose their wilderness characteristics.

(2) I object strongly to the designation of 5,000,000 acres of wilderness study lands as "scenic" and "wildlife" management areas, in lieu of classifying these lands as wilderness. S. 2850/H.R. 6001 grants federal managers entirely too much discretion in deciding what development activities are compatible with these vaguely defined "scenic" and "wildlife" areas. The United States Forest Service has shown itself to be a disastrously inept steward

of the nation's wilderness resources. Turning over these management areas to federal agencies is the congressional version of passing the buck, and I strongly urge you to instead classify the specified acreages as wilderness.

(3) I am particularly incensed by provisions in S. 2850/H.R. 6001 which eliminate judicial review of the Montana Rare II final Environmental Impact Statement. Judicial review is essential in order to force federal agencies to abide by the law. Federal agencies have not hesitated to display their utter contempt for the Rare II process in the past, as is evidenced by the Ninth Circuit's decision in California v. Block. Judicial review is the only safeguard we have to assure agency compliance with congressional directives regarding wilderness.

(4) I object to the release in S. 2850/H.R. 6001 of 5 Montana Wilderness Study Areas from any further consideration or study, and instead opening vast portions at these important areas to logging. And I strongly disagree with the release of the unique 60,000 acre Bitter Creek Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study Area outside of Glasgow. This is a very important area ecologically and aesthetically, as it represents some of the best preserved short grass prairie yet in existence in the West. Release of these areas clearly illustrates the cynical disregard with which S. 2850/H.R. 6001 approaches the Montana Wilderness Study Act (S. 393) process.

(5) One of the most dangerous and objectionable features of S. 2850/H.R. 6001 is the provision eliminating the 2,000 acre Goose Lake Basin from the already established Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness. This blatant capitulation to the mining industry needlessly sets a very dangerous precedent. No established wilderness would be safe from future invasion once Goose Lake Basin has been declassified and despoiled. I firmly believe that unless there is a clear and present national emergency at hand, declassification of established wilderness should be strictly disallowed.

Frankly, S. 2850/H.R. 6001 is so bad a bill that I would prefer to see it quietly withdrawn, in hopes that more fair and thoughtful legislation might be introduced in the next session. But at the very least, S. 2850/H.R. 6001 should be amended by adopting Alternative W., the compromise proposal forwarded by the Montana Wildlands Coalition (over 40 Montana Conservation, recreation, sportsmans and civic groups). Alternative W is a balanced and careful proposal which would preserve only the crown jewels of the study areas under consideration--about 1.9 million acres. I must stress that Alternative W represents a very generous compromise. For myself, the acreage to be preserved as wilderness in Alternative W is a bare minimum. The people of this state have compromised time and again on the issue of Montana wilderness. It is high time that the well entrenched industry lobbyists in Congress are made to realize that compomise is a two way street.

I am specifically concerned that the proposed Gate of the Mountains Addition, Crazy Mountains, Flint Creek Range, Mt. Baldy, Tobacco Root Mountains, and East and West Pioneers be protected according to Alternative W, since I frequently backpack in these areas. In my estimation these are superlative examples of pristine wildlands in Montana, and I strongly urge you to amend S. 2850/H.B. 6001 to classify them as wilderness.

Contrary to the claims of industry spokesman, I believe wilderness makes good economic sense for Montanans. Tourism is our third largest industry here, and every year more and more tourists travel to Montana to enjoy our wilderness areas. The demand for wilderness is growing at a frightening rate! As an example, a month ago my wife and I had to wait in line to enter the trailhead up the North Fork of the Blackfoot River in the Scapegoat Wilderness. Wilderness is a significant source of revenue in this state, and, more important, it is a long-term source of revenue. Mining, on the other hand, is a short-term source of funds wherein a majority of the exploited dollars quickly exit the state. Timber is also a short-term proposition economically, especially when one considers the extemely marginal growing sites found within most of the wilderness study areas. For the lands under consideration, wilderness designation would clearly lead to the greatest economic return to the citizens of Montana.

More than one member of the Montana delegation has been recently quoted in state newspapers as having said that the small appropriation to wilderness reflects a concern for the common weekend recreationist, who allegedly must have roads in order to see and enjoy Montana's rapidly diminishing wildlands. I am sick to death of hearing of this mythic army of lame middleclass weekend warriors who are unable to face the stunning mountains of Montana without the company of their jeeps, motorcycles, snowmobiles, garbage disposals, etc. ad nauseum. It is time this petty deceit was put to rest, finally and forever! I am a common, middle class, Montana weekend recreationist! I earn $18,000 per year, I rent, I own one vehicle, I vote in every single election and I work hard 40 hours a week. My wife and I look forward with great anticipation to our weekends back packing in central Montana. Wilderness affords us a blessed opportunity to slow down, to view life from a calmer perspective, and to escape the frantic machinations of the 20th century for a few precious moments. It also provides us with a high quality, lowcost outdoor recreation, which we appreciate much because it is all we can afford. I deeply resent being classified as some variety of privileged elitest because I don't rely on a $30,000 Winnebago loaded with motorcycles and color TV for my wildland recreation. I am also very weary of hiking miles into the Wilderness Study Act Areas of central Montana, only to have the solitude I have worked so hard for shattered by insensitive boobs tearing up the trail with motorcycles. Last weekend I hiked into Bell Lake in the spectacular Tobacco Roots--one of the areas denied wilderness protection under S. 2850/H.R. 6001. I was overrun by motorcycles for the entire hike into the lake. And while camped there, the heartbreakingly beautiful mountain cirque which enclosed the lake reverberated almost nonstop to the roar of the motorcyclists.

It is time we all recognized the elementary fact that the overwhelming majority of Montana's surface is already roaded (and open to development). You would deprive no one by protecting this state's last few enclaves of pristine wildland, while you would bequeath a precious heritage on your grandchildren and all our grandchildren.

In conclusion, I ask that you work to withdraw S. 2850/H.R. 6001, and initiate new legislation adopting the compromise proposal of the Montana Wildlands Coalition, Alternative W.

I ask that you include my comments in the official Senate hearing record and the official House hearing record.

I request that you provide that field hearings on S. 2850/H.R. 6001 be held here in Montana, so that the people have an opportunity to comment on this regretable legislation.

And, because this is an issue of paramount importance for me, I respectfully request to be kept abreast of your position regarding S. 2850/H.R. 6001.

Sincerely,

Paul D Johnson

1984 AUG 24 PM 3:52

1612 S. Tracy, #8
Bozeman, MT 59715
Aug. 17, 1984

Sen. Max Baucus
1107 Dirksen Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Baucus:

I am writing concerning the Montana Wilderness Bill presently being considered. I feel this bill needs to be rewritten to provide more equitable treatment concerning retention of Montana's remaining wildlands. The attached copy of a letter I sent to Sen. Melcher on this subject will elaborate on my thoughts.

I request that you reconsider some of the areas left out of the present bill, particularly the southern Crazy Mountains.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

I. Edward Sondeno

1612 S. Tracy, #8
Bozeman, MT 59715
Aug. 17, 1984

S. 2850 Hearing
Sen. John Melcher
730 Hart Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sen. Melcher:

I must say I'm disappointed in the content of the present wilderness bill to deal with Montana's remaining wildlands. The bill is not balanced with regard to wilderness designations and doesn't even come up to the Governor's recommendations.

Specifically, I'm disappointed that the southern Crazy Mountains were not included in the wilderness recommendations. I've written you previously concerning the many natural virtues of this area of our State. At present, the Forest Service is attempting to push back the roadless perimeter in the Cottonwood Creek area of the Crazies via another deficit timber sale. I strongly object that my tax dollars are utilized to encourage the harvest of timber that isn't worth the cost of removal and to encourage the erosion of our precious topsoil which will take much longer to renew than timber does. And the RARE study supposedly placed a moratorium on further development pending final decisions on this "wilderness study" area!

As a life-long resident in this part of Montana who has visited a number of other states, I feel confident in saying that the most significant difference between Montana and most other states is our clean air and water, our large, unspoiled vistas and our abundant, diverse wildlife. These are the things that make our State unique and the factors that have made our people and lifestyle equally unique. Tourists and other visitors (as well as recent residents and would-be residents) are here because of our mountains, rivers and wildlife, not because they are looking for logging roads and strip mines. If we sell out our remaining wildlands to development, we will become just "another state" and we will have lost that which makes us Montanans and proud to be so called.

The complaint of "locking up" the land is a hollow one as in any case of real National emergency, the Legislative and Executive Branches could undesignate land previously protected under wilderness designation. There is more land available to motorized travel and recreation now than at any other time and there is nothing wrong in having a heritage savings account that can be willed to the next generation of our Nation.

I urge the Montana Congressional Delegation to rework this bill and give more even-handed treatment to our natural areas, specifically including the southern Crazy Mountains. Thank you for your time and please include my comments in the hearing record.

Sincerely,
I. Edward Sondeno
I. Edward Sondeno

cc) Sen. Max Baucus
Rep. Pat Williams
Rep. Ron Marlenee

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
MONTANA CHAPTER

1984 AUG 16 AM 11: 37

August 9, 1984

Senator Max Baucus
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.
20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

The Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society appreciates this opportunity to comment on S.2850 - wilderness designation of certain lands in Montana. The Montana Chapter supports Alternative W in order to perpetuate a spectrum of wildlife habitat diversity within the state.

It is our hope that you seriously consider our input when wilderness designation of Montana's remaining roadless wildlife habitats are decided. Please contact us if further discussion or justification of our testimony is required in formulating the final wilderness recommendation.

Sincerely,

Arnold Dood

Arnold Dood, President

AN ORGANIZATION FOR PROFESSIONAL WILDLIFE BIOLOGISTS

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
MONTANA CHAPTER

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ON S.2850
WILDERNESS DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN LANDS IN MONTANA

The following testimony is submitted by the Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society concerning S.2850 on wilderness designation of certain lands in Montana. Please include this statement in the Congressional Record.

The Montana Chapter of the Wildlife Society is a non-profit organization of professional wildlife biologists employed by various Federal, State and private agencies concerned with management and welfare of wildlife resources within the State of Montana. The Chapter's objectives advocate the cultural, ethical and practical values of wildlife resources to the people of Montana, and promote the sound stewardship of these resources.

The Montana Chapter commends the Montana delegation's designation of some Montana roadless areas as Wilderness, but we also support Wilderness designation for several other areas of unroaded wildlife habitat as described by the 1.9 million acres identified in Alternative W.

It appears that from the perspective of all those taking a stand, pivotal to the issue of wilderness are two points: the well-being of wildlife and recreational opportunity. In keeping with the tenets of The Wildlife Society, two topics are addressed: maintaining wildlife habitat diversity and ensuring a choice of wildlife-related recreational opportunities.

If the abundance and variety of wildlife as we know it today is to exist in the future, we are compelled to ensure a diversity of wildlife habitat conditions. Thirty-five years ago, Aldo Leopold, known as the Father of game management, mused about man's compulsion to dismantle, rearrange and reconstruct his surroundings when he stated, "The key to successful tinkering is not to throw away any of the pieces". Leopold's admonition is even more relavent in today's fast-paced world of accelerating resource demands. From a wildlife perspective the "pieces" in jeopardy are habitat.

In North America we have witnessed a continual progession toward development of wild country with timber extraction, energy exploration, mineral development, subdivision expansion, and the like, to the point where the variety of natural habitats available to wildlife are inexorably diminishing. In order to ensure the widest diverstiy and abundance of wildlife species, a broad spectrum of habitat conditions must be maintained. Outside of the Wilderness system there are few unroaded areas left. The current wilderness debate must focus on the fact that the country now in Wilderness ensures the unroaded and undeveloped nature of certain types which, in the future, will be missing from the spectrum of environmental diversity that is so important to roadless wildlife habitat, unless they too receive wilderness designation.

Recreational opportunities in roaded settings continue to expand as access is developed throughout the state. Conversely, since Montana's land base is finite, unroaded recreational opportunities steadily diminish and the chance to view wildlife in the wild or particiapte in hunting within primitive settings, dwindles.

Wilderness designation of 1.9 million acres (as specified in Alternative W) would maintain a portion of Montana's environmental diversity, which in turn would ensure the existence of diverse wildlife populations in a variety of native, undisturbed conditions.

August 17, 1984

Senator Max Baucus
1107 Dirksen Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

1984 AUG 21 PM [illegible]

Dear Senator Baucus:

When S. 2850 and H.R. 6001 were announced some weeks ago, I, like everyone who has devoted much time to the improved stewardship of Montana public lands, was stunned by the nature of the legislation and by its negative response to the highly credible work that had been done by the Montana Wildlands Coalition to identify those lands, waters and habitat which must be preserved if we are going to continue even a modicum of environmental stability in our state.

Before I communicated my concerns I wanted to review in as extensive detail as possible the recommendations that were made to our Congressional delegation alongside the specifications set forth in the proposed legislation.

My search has left me more baffled than ever.

The Montana Wildlands Coalition (representing 45 organizations) undertook a study of almost 6 million acres and, exercising commendable discipline, refined the list of most urgent protection needs to what I consider an absolute minimum of 2 million acres--called Alternative-W.

The Montana delegation's bill, offering a wide assortment of disparate stipulations, proposes to release 4.9 million acres while it establishes 747,000 acres of Wilderness.

This was to be a bill to address Rare II. But the proposed legislation releases land from areas already designated Wilderness (six year's after Lee Metcalf's death his work is being dismantled); it proposes management termed "special", but which people understandably regard as a new vehicle for denying wilderness; it offers provisions which violate the S-393 status of four of the seven areas still carried in that designation; it skips to the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management and releases Bitter Creek.

In almost every instance boundary reductions are excessive and will cause increased pressure and friction on the very systems we seek to save.

The legislation proposed in S. 2850 does not reflect the commitment Montanans have to improved land and water policies.

I want to be on record in support of the full Alternative-W proposal presented by the Montana Wildlands Coalition.

May I please have those observations entered as part of the Committee hearings of August 8th?

Yours truly,

Donna Metcalf

Mrs. Lee Metcalf
PO Box 1694
Helena, Montana 59624

Max, Good to see you in Missoula at the Pattee Canyon Democratic picnic - Good luck!
Janet

1984 AUG 20 AM 11 51

Moores
P. O. Box 1017
Condon, Mt. 59826

August 12, 1984

Senators John Melcher and Max Baucus
Representatives Pat Williams and Ron Marlene
Washington, D. C.

John, Max, Pat and Ron:

Since we did not attend the hearings you held August 9th in Washington, D. C. regarding the Montana Wilderness Bill, this letter is to convey our thoughts on the matter and we would like to have it become part of the hearing record.

The storm of controversy that has erupted since your legislation has become known to the public suggests to us that parts of the bill are either seriously flawed or the proposals do not have as a foundation the kind of detailed field examinations needed to support the designation of wilderness or release from wilderness consideration. As you must know from our past correspondence, Janet and I do not take stands on issues of land allocation unless we have examined the land in question in sufficient detail to recommend boundaries for appropriate uses including a site-specific rationale to support our conclusions. Consequently, we cannot evaluate your legislation as a total package. We can, however, offer comments on those areas where we have made field studies or in other ways become familiar with the values inherent in the land. Our ideas follow.

The Swan Front

We thank you for including as wilderness all but the very northernmost portion, using boundaries nearly identical to those recommended in past studies made by us and several other residents of the Swan Valley. Although not unanimous, a Swan Front Wilderness enjoys strong local support in our valley. We do not know the land well enough to advise on the northernmost section not included as wilderness in your bill but if you can allow us time to do so, we have offered to help the people of the Swan Lake and Kalispell areas conduct a more detailed study of the area including the Swan Crest which you also released from wilderness consideration.

Monture Creek

As near as we can tell from the map available to us, your proposal for wilderness follows the boundaries agreed to by the Bob Marshall Alliance, Champion Timberlands, Pyramid Lumber Company and associated individuals. We agree with this and commend you for heeding the work of these forward-looking individuals and organizations. Our support is based on long time association with that area culminated by a study of land values and potential boundary locations made by Bud in 1982. Unlike our work on the Swan Front, we did not prepare a formal report but instead drew our conclusions from the details of Bud's field journals and maps prepared by him.

Selway-Bitterroot Additions (Lantern Ridge Lolo Peak)

This proposed addition to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness is well known to us because of Bud's hunting, trapping, hiking, exploration and writing about it for the past sixty years, his first visit being a huckleberrying venture in the early 'twenties and latest a big-game scouting trip in 1982. The greatest merits of this small addition to wilderness will be to protect the natural state of a scenic canyon of the South Fork of Lolo Creek, Montana, needed security for big game and, by maintaining a vigorous ascent as an entry, protect the upper reaches of the South Fork from over use due to ease of access. Little or no commercial values will be sacrificed. Thanks for including this small yet significant area in the bill as wilderness.

Other more General Observations

Among the most important considerations for establishing the Welcome Creek Wilderness was a report prepared by us in 1975. Consequently, we are delighted to see your inclusion of the area directly across Rock Creek, Quigg Peak, as wilderness. We are generally, not specifically, familiar with this fine companion area to Welcome Creek so must withhold any specific comments regarding boundaries.

We also support your designation as wilderness a major portion of the Great Burn, an area known by Bud since his boyhood and recognized by him to rate high in wilderness values. But we do not have up-to-date knowledge - within say the past 10 years - of events on the perimeter that would influence boundary location, say, for example, details to substantiate or oppose your reasons for releasing from wilderness the Cache Creek - Pilot Knob portions of the roadless area. In summary, we are glad you included much of the Great Burn and urge you to work with the Idaho delegation to obtain Wilderness Classification for appropriate lands in that state.

John, Max, Pat and Ron, the foregoing is the best we can do at this time to help in this legislation so important to the future of Montana and, for that matter, to the future quality of life in the entire United States. We want as much as anyone to see the roadless area issue settled soon but urge you nonetheless to allow time for detailed, joint-interest examination of lands where severe conflicts exist. To that end, we will do all we can to study and help disclose the values inherent in the land needed to back up sound decisions.

As you have seen by the foregoing, most of the areas known to us, and studied and reported on by us, have been treated well by you. We would not like to see this good work lost in the aftermath of a battle to kill your Montana Bill because neither wilderness advocates or industrialists like what you have done. It would be much better, we think, to modify the bill to designate wilderness for those areas of obvious quality, release from wilderness those millions of acres that can surely be agreed upon, then hold the few controversial areas that remain for study with tight, say one or two year target dates for completion.

In closing I must explain that I am this Sunday morning writing this letter in part as a memorial to Minnie Kopra, a loved and respected long-time resident of the Swan Valley who, at age 79, died last Tuesday while dining with family and friends at Lindbergh Lake. Since the death of her husband, Andy, a few years ago, Min lived alone in full view of the splendor of the Swan Front. Though too old and fragile to climb them, she cherished their spirit as she did other old friends and a few days before her death she asked Bud to help her write a letter to reach you before the close of the hearing record, conveying support for your designation of the Swan Front as Wilderness. She had some old photos she wanted to send to show that some great natural creations are timeless and to live in the shadow of the natural Swan Range is as close to eternity as most of us can ever expect to get.

Since Min never got to send her letter, ours will have to do. But we know she was thankful for your work and, had her time on earth not run out, she would have written and told you so.

Sincerely,

Bud & Janet Moore

Dr. William R. (Bud) & Janet Moore

cc: Governor Ted Schwinden
Flathead Chapter, MWA
Mel & Nan Nelson

Please insert in 8/9
hearings

1984 AUG -8 AM 10 09

1984 AUG -9 AM 8 56

AUGUST 4, 1984
613 HOLLINS AVE
HELENA, MT. 59601

DEAR SENATOR BAUCUS —

I WANT TO COMMUNICATE TO YOU MY DISAPPOINTMENT IN S2850. IT FALLS WOEFULLY SHORT OF GIVING PROTECTION TO LANDS THAT SURPASS ANY OTHER IN THIS COUNTRY FOR WILDERNESS QUALITIES. S2850 WILL RELEASE SEVEN TIMES THE AMOUNT OF LAND TO ROADING, TIMBER, OIL, & GAS AS IT PLANS TO PROTECT.

THESE ARE PUBLIC LANDS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. WHY ARE YOU PROPOSING TO RELEASE SO MUCH TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND LEAVING SO LITTLE TO THE REAL PUBLIC? AS A MONTANAN TAXPAYER, THAT SEEMS GROSSLY UNFAIR TO ME.

SPECIFICALLY, HOW CAN WE AFFORD NOT TO GIVE FULL PROTECTION TO SUCH AREAS AS THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT OR THE NORTH BIG HOLE? DO FIVE YEARS OF ECONOMIC GAINS FOR THE TIMBER INDUSTRY WARRANT WHOLESALE DESTRUCTION OF OUR WILDLANDS?

-2-

HOW CAN WE RELEASE AREAS OF HELENA NATIONAL FOREST, SUCH AS MOUNT BALDY, CAMAS CREEK, OR NEVADA MOUNTAIN, WHICH HAVE FAR GREATER VALUE AS RECREATIONAL AND HUNTING LANDS THAN THEY EVER COULD HOPE TO HAVE AS VIABLE TIMBER STANDS?

I DON'T USE THE WILDERNESS THAT MUCH. I DON'T EVEN HUNT OR OWN A TRUCK. BUT I KNOW WHAT ATTRACTS ME, AS WELL AS OTHERS, TO OUR WIDE OPEN STATE. IT'S THE FACT THAT MONTANA IS RELATIVELY UNDEVELOPED, AND HAS FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES THAT ARE TRULY UNIQUE TO THE LOWER 48 STATES. WHEN FRIENDS OF MINE WHO LIVE BACK EAST COME TO VISIT MONTANA, IT'S THESE QUALITIES THEY ARE COMING TO EXPERIENCE. IT IS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME THAT THE POLICY MAKERS OF THIS STATE CANNOT SEE THAT MONTANA'S MOST LONG TERM LEGACY TO THIS GREAT COUNTRY IS NOT LUMBER, OIL, GAS, AND COAL, BUT HER PRISTINE MOUNTAIN RANGES

-3-

AND RIVER VALLEYS — REMOTE AREAS UNTOUCHED BY MAN.

THERE ARE GOING TO BE SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON S2350 ON AUGUST 9, 1984. COULD YOU PLEASE SUBMIT MY LETTER AS PART OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD AT THAT TIME. THANK YOU.

SINCERELY,

TIM SPEYER

MONTANA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

P. O. BOX 1679 — HELENA, MONTANA 59624

Phone (406) 442-3420

JAMES E. COURTNEY ALZADA .... CHAIRMAN
RUSSELL UNRUH CHINOOK .... VICE CHAIRMAN
MONS L. TEIGEN HELENA .... SECRETARY/TREASURER
STUART H. DOGGETT HELENA .... ASST. SECRETARY/TREASURER

DIRECTORS:
J. B. ANDERSON .... JACKSON
JOHN F. BAUCUS .... WOLF CREEK
W. J. BROWN, JR. .... SAND SPRINGS
GENE ETCHART .... GLASGOW
JOE ETCHART .... GLASGOW
WM. E. GARRISON .... GLEN
JAY NANCE .... BIRNEY
GEORGE RATHS .... ROUNDUP

1 6 CO

August 22, 1984

Honorable Malcolm Wallop
Chairman, Sub-Committee
Public Lands and Reserved Water Committee
  on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

The Montana Public Lands Council thanks you for the opportunity to offer this written testimony on Senate Bill 2850, the "Montana Wilderness Act of 1984."

Our Council represents livestock producers who graze on Montana public lands and is directed by the Montana Stockgrowers Association, the Montana Wool Growers Association and the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts. These comments, therefore, represent the position of these three entities in regards to Senate Bill 2850.

It has been our position that the State of Montana already has enough public lands in the wilderness system and we have opposed the designation of further wilderness in this state. This point is best illustrated by the resolutions passed at the most recent conventions of the three organizations this council represents. These resolutions are enclosed for your review and, as you can see, they all carry the same message.

While this Council would like to think that Montana already has an adequate amount of acres in the wilderness system, we are realistic to the fact that future additions to the Montana Wilderness System are inevitable. While we do not oppose any existing areas here in Montana, we feel that any further additions would not be syncnymous with good multiple use management or in any way help to accommodate the Montana ranching community.

Wilderness is a restrictive form of land management with little or no value to the public land graizer. Although some wilderness proponents have made the claim that stockmen need not worry about grazing rights in wilderness areas we remain extremely skeptical for the following reasons:

(1) Ranching operations containing wilderness are given a "lower value for lending purposes" than operations not containing wilderness. This is according to data collected from the Production Credit Association, the Federal Land

Bank and the Farmers Home Administration. These institutions showed that they would clearly place a lower value on ranching operations containing wilderness.

(2) Wilderness creates a great deal of "Uncertainty" for livestock operators who may graze in possible wilderness areas. Although grazing is supposedly grandfathered into the "Wilderness Act of 1964", the management of these areas is not geared towards good livestock management but towards the idea of protecting a pristine environment. While we feel that domestic livestock and wildlife are compatible in the same habitat, many environmentalists do not agree. Therefore, we are extremely worried how livestock will be treated when it is felt they are conflicting with wildlife or the esthetic value of a wilderenss area.

In a wilderness area a livestock producer can never be assured that his livestock numbers will not be greatly reduced. We would hope this would not be the case but in reality this is a threat we must work to avoid.

(3) We do not feel a wilderness designation is needed to protect watershed values. We feel a great myth has been created by the environmental community that a wilderness designation is the only way possible to protect watershed values. We do not agree with this notion and sincerely feel that the individual Forest Plans are more than adequate to protect against the problems of land abuse. Furthermore, we would like to compliment the Forest Service for their efforts in implementing fair land use regulations.

(4) A wilderness designation could ultimately put more pressure on private property owners. With more Forest Service lands being put into a restrictive wilderness designation, many recreationalists will be looking to private lands where they can utilize their off-road vehicle.

We feel that the majority of recreationalists in the State of Montana, whether it be right or wrong, utilize off-road vehicles to recreate in Forest Lands. Therefore, private property owners will carry the burden of putting up with recreationalists who do not like saddling up a horse or putting on their backpack every time they want to enjoy the Big Sky Country.

We do agree that future additions to the Montana Wilderness System are probably inevitable and we therefore support certain provisions in Senate Bill 2850. For example, we regretfully support the provision which calls for 747,178 acres of new wilderness in the State of Montana.

What we do not support are provisions in Senate Bill 2850 which call for 507,232 acres of special management area. We feel that for all general purposes these special management areas would be wilderness in theory, if not in fact. Such a designation would cause great uncertainty as to future uses rendering them incapable of future planning by the Forest Service.

We support only the newly described wilderness areas in Senate Bill 2850 in hopes that this bill will settle the controversial wilderness issue once and for all. We are pleased to make these comments and hope they are given fair consideration when members of Congress impose future wilderness designations on the State of Montana.

Sincerely,

Jim

Jim Courtney
Chairman
Montana Public Lands Council

JC:ejr

Enc.

CC: Senator Melcher
Senator Baucus
Representative Marlenee
Representative Williams
Robert Gilbert, Montana Wool Growers Association
Mons Teigen, Montana Stockgrowers Association

RESOLUTIONS

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF STATE GRAZING DISTRICTS
October 6, 1983
Red Rock Village Inn
Miles City, Montana

RESOLUTION #1 - Annual Rentals for Federal Land Right-of-Ways

WHEREAS, improvements on private lands do cross over to federal lands and provide habitat and area coverage which is in the public and private interest, and

WHEREAS, Federal agencies' decisions, including those of the Bureau of Land Management, to charge an annual right-of-way, although this agency is benefitting from this improvement, at no charge from the private land owner, have placed an unfair burden on the private landowner, and

WHEREAS, charging this right-of-way fee, even when the BLM is benefitting from the improvement, is inappropriate and violates a good neighbor policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts urges the Bureau of Land Management to refrain from charging right-of-way costs when private improvements help develop government land.

RESOLUTION #2 - Wilderness Areas

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service have designated thousands of acres to be classified as wilderness, and

WHEREAS, public comment has opposed the formation of many of these areas as wilderness, and

WHEREAS, withdrawal and establishing wilderness standards of these lands would create a substantial hardship on ranchers, farmers, sportsmen, etc., in the areas of access, feeding of livestock, doctoring of livestock, etc., and

WHEREAS, designation of many of these wilderness areas do not meet qualifications of wilderness areas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts opposes the designation of more wilderness areas in Montana.

PREDATOR COMMITTEE, Continued

Mt. Wool Growers Ass. [redacted]

Resolution #3 - COUNTY ASSESSMENTS

To allow the sheep producers in each county to assess as much for predator control as they feel is necessary in their county, the Montana Wool Growers Association recommends that the state legislature remove the limit for the special county assessment used for predator control.

PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE

Resolution #1 - SAGEBRUSH REBELLION

Seven western states have passed legislation in favor of the Sagebrush Rebellion concept and Montana is a key state left of the remaining five western states who have not passed legislation pertaining to this matter.

BE IT RESOLVED the Montana Wool Growers Association supports the Sagebrush Rebellion concept and will support Montana state legislation in favor of the Sagebrush Rebellion.

* Resolution #2 - WILDERNESS

The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service are designating more lands for study as wilderness areas.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Wool Growers Association go on record opposing the creation of any additional wilderness.

Resolution #3 - GRAZING REGULATIONS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Wool Growers Association make an intensive effort to acquaint and make their members, and other users of public lands for grazing purposes, aware of the provisions of the draft Interim Direction for wilderness areas and urge participation of all such persons in making comments on the proposed Interim Directions within the comment periods.

Resolution #4 - C.M.R. GRAZING

The draft EIS concerning future management of that range calls for elimination of sheep grazing on the C.M. Russell Game Range,

and the draft calls for 20 to 30 percent in overall livestock numbers which cannot be substantiated by the condition of the range,

and the EIS does not give recognition to private land in holdings nor to the adverse economic impacts to the individual livestock operator or the community in which he is involved,

and the management proposals of the EIS calls for expansion and protection of coyotes and prairie dogs which will have disasterous effects on neighboring lands and livestock users,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Wool Growers Association reject the proposed EIS on the above grounds and urge that the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife rewrite the EIS giving proper consideration to the above-mentioned concern.

Resolutions Passed By The Montana Stockgrowers Association — June 2, 1984

1. FREE MARKET SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Montana Stockgrowers Association has celebrated and survived 100 years, and

WHEREAS, deficit government spending and cheap food policy has resulted in high inflation, high interest rates, high taxes causing high production costs for the cattle industry, and

WHEREAS, the Montana Stockgrowers Association has always believed and supported the free market system, and not believing in government programs which have put a lot of stress of uncertainty as a result of not letting the free market system function on its own,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Stockgrowers Association in its policy continuing on into another 100 years will take the lead for preservation of private property rights, a free domestic market system, and a balanced federal budget and to eliminate trade deficits.

2. TIMBERLAND TAXATION

WHEREAS, Montana's timberlands are a renewable land resource, and

WHEREAS, income revenue from many timberlands is often low or non-existent because of low productivity levels, and

WHEREAS, timber production is recognized as an agricultural enterprise under USDA programs, and

WHEREAS, heavy levels of taxation on timberlands would create a severe financial burden on the landowner, encouraging the destruction of the timber, with a resulting loss of sustained production, wildlife habitat, watershed, and scenic beauty.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Montana Stockgrowers Association support the fair and equitable taxation of timberland based on the productive value of the land.

3. SCHOOL FOUNDATION PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Montana Stockgrowers Association support legislation providing that the School Foundation Program for the support of the public schools (now 45 mills) be proportionately reduced as the taxable valuation of the State of Montana increases.

4. TAXATION ON WELLS AND SEPTIC TANKS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Montana Stockgrowers Association oppose separate taxation on wells and septic tanks on agricultural land with the values of such improvements to be considered a part of the value of the house.

5. EXPORT OF LIVE CATTLE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Montana Stockgrowers Association support drafting of a federal regulation instructing federal veterinarians and personnel to expedite and assist in all ways possible the export of live cattle to foreign countries.

6. PAYMENT FOR DELIVERED CATTLE

WHEREAS, ownership of cattle is transferred at delivery and for a variety of reasons problems have occurred in receiving payment for the delivered cattle,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Montana Stockgrowers Association encourage all cattle owners to require the wire transfer of funds at the time cattle are sold, weighed and loaded.

7. OPENING DATES OF HUNTING SEASONS

WHEREAS, hunting seasons opening on weekends creates an overwhelming impact on landowners,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Stockgrowers Association support opening dates of hunting seasons set for the middle of the week and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to the Governor and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

8. WILDLIFE OVER POPULATION

WHEREAS, wildlife damage to agricultural and range forage has increased dramatically, and

WHEREAS, game numbers will increase substantially in 1984, and

WHEREAS, deer have been a hazard to motorists and vehicles,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Montana Stockgrowers Association encourage the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to issue a larger number of out-of-state tags to hunters in the 600 and 700 districts in Montana, and

ALSO BE IT RESOLVED, that the Department issue these tags early so that the out-of-state hunters can have more time to plan their trips to Montana, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Department should continue its policy of increasing in-state hunter permits in those areas over-populated by game, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Governor of Montana, and members of the 1985 Legislature.

9. COW ELK PERMITS

BE IT RESOLVED that Montana Stockgrowers Association urge the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to require those hunters drawing cow elk permits to take only a cow elk during hunting season.

10. PERMISSION TO ENTER PRIVATE LAND

WHEREAS, hunters of big game are required to have the landowner's permission to hunt on private land, and

WHEREAS, hunters of upland game, water fowl, and birds attract large numbers of sportsmen, and

WHEREAS, fire damage and damage to private property are prevalent in Montana,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Montana Stockgrowers Association support legislation during the 1985 session which will require all anglers, hunters and sportsmen of any game, predators, or varmints to have permission from the landowners prior to entering upon private property.

11. WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS

WHEREAS, wilderness designation of our public lands is detrimental to the livestock industry because:

1) the land cannot be managed for good growth of feed for livestock and game;
2) waterways and springs cannot be maintained or developed;
3) livestock cannot be properly managed; fences, ditches, salt licks cannot be developed;
4) wilderness designation lowers the carrying capacity of affected ranches, and therefore their value;
5) the tax base in affected counties is lowered, therefore raising the tax burden on ranchers; and
6) the affected ranchers lose opportunities for motorized recreation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Stockgrowers Association oppose any more wilderness designations in Montana and support the concept of multiple use of all public lands.

12. RANGE STEWARDSHIP

WHEREAS, the East Pioneer Experimental Range Stewardship Program is meeting with excellent success and has the enthusiastic support of permittees, agencies and environmental interests involved and has helped resolve many resource conflicts to improve rangeland management and has also helped spawn an active coordinated noxious weed eradication program,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED the Montana Stockgrowers Association support the range stewardship concept and request continuation of the East Pioneer Experimental Range Stewardship Program, and expansion of the stewardship concept to include other areas.

13. USE OF DEPARTMENT OF FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has been actively procuring land for wildlife habitat, recreational use, and public access.

WHEREAS, these funds used for these procurements can be better usert for management of existing wildlife range, purchase of public accesses, and payment for wildlife damage to private property,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Montana Stockgrowers Association that it is opposed to the use of funds of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks for the procurement of these lands.

14. NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL

WHEREAS, the spread of noxious weeds continues unabated across the rangelands and timberlands of Montana causing a significant reduction in the production of native rangeland plants and impairment of timber regeneration, and

WHEREAS, little is known of what the ultimate effect will be to the economy of Montana, wildlife habitat, erosion control, water quality, timber production, and the loss of quality environment should these invading weeds not be controlled,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Montana Stockgrowers Association request the Governor of the State of Montana to appoint a Blue Ribbon Task Force to determine the ultimate economic and sociological impact to the people of Montana if the spread of noxious weeds such as the knapweed species, leafy spurge, dalmation toadflax, goatweed, and other weeds continues with no adquate means of control,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Montana Stockgrowers Association support action by federal and state agencies and all concerned with land management to help educate the public regarding the problem relating to the spread of noxious weeds;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED the Montana Stockgrowers Association request the federal government offer help with weed control on public and private lands through appropriate ASCS programs.

15. RATIFICATION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Montana Stockgrowers Association that the actions of the officers and Executive Committee of the Association during the period April 30, 1983 to and including April 30, 1984, in administering the affairs of the Association and official acts of said officers and Executive Committee insofar as such activities are within the scope of their authorized activities are hereby approved and ratified.

16. APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the Montana Stockgrowers Association has been privileged to enjoy the hospitality of Miles City, Montana during the Centennial Celebration, we wish to express our appreciation to all who did so much to make this, our 100th Annual Convention, a successful meeting.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Montana Stockgrowers Association hereby express the sincere thanks to the Allied Industry Committee, the Montana CowBelles, the Centennial Celebration Committee, the Miles City Chamber of Commerce and the staff of the regional hotels including the Olive Inn and to all those who contributed to the success of the Convention.

RECOMMENDATIONS PASSED BY THE MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION

June 2, 1984

1. SUPREME COURT STREAM ACCESS DECISION

BE IT RECOMMENDED that the Montana Stockgrowers Association and its appropriate committees evaluate the recent stream access decision of the Supreme Court of Montana and determine the effects the decision has upon private property rights and pursue appropriate legislation to protect private property rights and limit landowner liability exposure to those obtaining stream access.

2. PERMANENT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

BE IT RECOMMENDED that the Montana Stockgrowers Association study the feasibility of potential benefits of using the ballot initiative process in 1986 to seek permanent property tax relief.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF STATE GRAZING DISTRICTS

420 North California St.
Helena, Montana 59601

(406) 442-3420

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Stuart Doggett, Executive Secretary .... Helena

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August 22, 1984

Honorable Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
Sub Committee, Public Lands and Reserve Water Committee
on Energy and Natural Resources
U. S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

On behalf of the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts, I would like you to know that we fully support the statement by the Montana Public Lands Council in regards to Senate Bill 2850, "The Montana Wilderness Act of 1984."

We endorse this position and sincerely hope that you will give our comments fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe

Joe Etchart
President

JE:ejr

Enc.

MONTANA STOCKGROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P. O. BOX 1679 — 420 NO. CALIFORNIA ST. — PHONE (406) 442-3420 — HELENA, MONTANA 59624

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August 22, 1984

Honorable Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
Sub Committee, Public Lands and Reserve Water Committee
on Energy and Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter sent to you by the Montana Public Lands Council regarding Senate Bill 2850, "The Montana Wilderness Act of 1984."

The Montana Stockgrowers Association endorses the position of the Montana Public Lands Council and fully supports their statement on Senate Bill 2850.

Sincerely,

Jimme L. Wilson
President

JLW:ejr

Enc.

American Wilderness Alliance
4260 East Evans Avenue / Suite 3 / Denver, Colorado 80222 / (303) 758-5018

1984 AUG 13 AM 11:

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August 8, 1984

Senator Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

Please make this statement a part of the official record of the hearing you are holding on August 9, concerning S. 2850, the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984.

The American Wilderness Alliance is a western-based national non-profit conservation organization whose members are dedicated to conserving the nation's decreasing wildlands, wildlife habitat and free-flowing river resources. Most of our Montana members are familiar with the areas in S. 2850, as well as other areas in the state which they feel deserve wilderness status. Also, as a native Montanan, I have visited most of the areas on a number of occasions, and I am acquainted with their wilderness character and resources.

S. 2850 would designate 13 new wilderness areas and make additions to eight already established wildernesses, placing a total of some 747,000 acres in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

S. 2850 includes some of the key areas as wilderness, (1) but in several instances the areas have been greatly reduced in size without justification and represent incomplete, less viable natural ecosystems. (2) In other instances, some of the most important potential wilderness areas have been excluded from wilderness protection altogether and released to development—or (3) given other inadequate management that will not properly safeguard their outstanding wilderness, wildlife and watershed values.

We respectfully urge that these significant deficiencies be corrected in S. 2850 before passage of the measure is considered.

Examples in the bill of Item 1 above are the proposed 44,160 acre Quigg Wilderness, the 12,600 acre Trout Creek Wilderness, and 130,000 acre additions to the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Working Together To
Conserve Wild America

In RARE II, the U.S. Forest Service and the previous Administration recommended a 60,050 acre Quigg Wilderness. It was strongly supported by sportsmen and other conservation groups in the state. Quigg provides critical habitat for significant populations of bighorn sheep and elk—both wilderness-dependent species. It protects the undisturbed, critical watersheds of Rock Creek, a nationally recognized trout stream. All 60,050 acres of the Quigg area should be classified as wilderness.

Conservation groups and wildlife interests have long recommended a 32,640 acre Trout Creek Wilderness. This area in the Kootenai National Forest is noted for its superb wilderness elk hunting—a resource in short supply among the sea of clearcuts on this forest. All 32,640 acres of the Trout Creek area deserve wilderness status.

Perhaps the worst deficiency of the bill is its failure to give wilderness protection to the critically important national forest wildlands which flank the Bob Marshall Wilderness on the east and west. The bill would designate as wilderness only 130,000 acres of these lands, instead of approximately 400,000 acres which require wilderness status if the Bob Marshall Wilderness is to remain a complete and viable ecosystem—one of the finest in the lower 48 states.

The superb roadless areas which the bill should add to the Bob Marshall Wilderness include: Rocky Mountain Front, 224,000 acres (Deep Creek, Renshaw Mountain, Falls Creek, Teton River High Peaks and Choteau Mountain); Monture Creek, 67,000 acres; and the Swan Front, 108,000 acres.

Even adding 400,000 acres to the Bob Marshall Wilderness is a major compromise to development interests, because it releases to development another 400,000 acres of roadless lands which adjoin the Bob Marshall. The 400,000 acres which we, Montana Wildlife Federation and other conservation groups have urged be made a part of the Bob Marshall Wilderness are of major importance to the well-being of valuable wildlife within the Bob Marshall—as spring elk calving range, and as irreplaceable, spring, fall and winter range for bighorn sheep, moose and mountain goat, as well as for elk. They provide critically essential spring and fall range for the grizzly bear, which is threatened with extinction in the lower 48 states.

The greater Bob Marshall Wilderness ecosystem supports a multi-million dollar outfitting and guiding industry, as well as much sporting hunting and fishing.

Under Item 2, above, key roadless areas left out of S. 2850 altogether which deserve wilderness status at this time include: Stony Mountain, 98,000 acres; Cube Iron Mountain-Mount Silcox, 40,000 acres; North Swan Crest, 172,000 acres; Thompson-Seton, 34,400 acres; Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Additions, 40,000 acres; Nevada Mountain, 55,000 acres; Camas Creek, 38,700 acres; and Tenderfoot-Deep Creek, 94,600 acres.

Cube Iron Mountain-Mount Silcox, North Swan Crest, Thompson-Seton, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Additions and Nevada Mountain represent important grizzly bear habitat which needs wilderness protection. Stony Mountain and Tenderfoot-Deep Creek contain major elk populations which will suffer from development. Among the wilderness-dependent species found in the rest of the aforementioned areas are moose, mountain goat, bighorn sheep and wolf.

Under Item 3 above, most of the roadless areas, which S. 2850 in Sections 8 through 13 would give varying special management designations, should, instead, be granted a wilderness classification. These include Porcupine-Buffalo Horn, Hyalite, Jewel Basin, West Pioneer, Middle Fork Judith, Big Snowies, West Big Hole, and Silver King and Renshaw Mountain special management areas. At least, the northern part (25,000 acres) of the Elkhorn Roadless Area also is eminently qualified for wilderness status.

The bill notes that the Porcupine-Buffalo Horn area contains "critical grizzly bear and elk habitat"—and then allows commerical timber harvest, roads, mineral exploration and development, oil and gas leasing or almost any type of use or development that is allowed on unclassified national forest land. To say that such development or uses are permitted "if the wildlife values are maintained" is largely meaningless. This loose language give the Forest Service and industry, as well as off-road vehicle users, license to continue to do as they please with the area—to the detriment of the threatened grizzly and the large elk population. Porcupine-Buffalo Horn adjoins Yellowstone National Park and, for wildlife, is a critically important part of the Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The Hyalite area was proposed in 1979 by the Forest Service and conservation groups for wilderness status. It has no conflicts. It qualifies. There is no good reason for not giving it a wilderness classification now.

The West Pioneer area is one of the few potential "gentle wildernesses" in the state—easy to hike through and enjoy a wilderness experience. It is also major habitat for the rare indigenous grayling that has lost out elsewhere to man's development. In addition, the area supports moose and elk herds which would greatly benefit from wilderness protection. Moreover, the largely pristine watershed is vital to the protection of the nationally famed Big Hole River, its water quality and outstanding fishery. A wilderness designation for the entire West Pioneer Wilderness Study Area is the best assurance that this wild country, its watersheds, wildlife, fisheries and superb Big Hole River will remain unspoiled and undiminished for present and future Montanans, as well as for the substantial outdoor industry these priceless resources generate. Tourists do not come to Montana and spend money there for the purpose of viewing destroyed and unscenic watersheds without wildlife, polluted streams void of sport fish, and with no place to enjoy quality outdoor recreation.

The Middle Fork of the Judith and Big Snowies are the last two major opportunities to designate wilderness in the eastern half of Montana—a huge region largely devoid of established wilderness. The Middle Fork of the Judith has one of the largest and most productive elk herds in the state. To allow commerical timber harvest, mineral development, roads and other development in 11,200 acres of this Wilderness Study Area would be to destroy the major spring calving area and security area for the elk herd, and to eliminate opportunities to establish virtually a complete natural ecosystem and one of the two finest potential wildernesses in central and eastern Montana. Impairment of the area as quality elk habitat would decimate the elk population and make largely useless the long-established, nearby State Game Range along the Judith River, where the herd winters.

Neither the Middle Fork Judith Recreation Area designation or the Big Snowies Recreation Area classification, as proposed in the bill, would protect these exceptional Wilderness Study Areas from mineral development or commerical timber harvest. Without such withdrawals and prohibitions, it is meaningless and of no value to provide that the areas would be managed for "semi-primitive roadless recreation." In mountainous country, mining, oil and gas development, and timber harvest require roads and associated developments.

The entire acreage of these two magnificent Wilderness Study Areas should be classified as wilderness by S. 2850.

To make the West Big Hole area a Further Planning Area, as provided in the bill, is to put off doing what needs to be done now to protect the extreme headwaters of the famed Big Hole River—designate the West Big Hole as wilderness. The Forest Service has studied this roadless area since 1970. It has ample resource information which indicates that the highest and best use of the magnificent tract is as wilderness.

In regard to the Silver King and Renshaw Special Management Areas, both are key grizzly habitat, as well as important summer, fall and winter range for such wilderness-dependent big-game as elk, bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Wolves have also been confirmed in the Renshaw area. The wolf is endangered with extinction. It requires essentially a wilderness environment, remote from man and his works. The possibility of finding oil and/or gas in these areas is low and highly speculative; even if found, the likelihood is that neither resource would be available in large quantities. Both areas should be classified as wilderness.

Finally, the American Wilderness Alliance strongly supports the provisions in the bill which would establish the Hoodoo (Great Burn) and Electric Peak (Little Blackfoot Meadows) areas as wilderness. These two areas are well qualified for a wilderness designation. They have no significant resource conflicts. They are important habitat for elk, moose and mule deer. Mountain goats are also present in the Great Burn. Grizzly bears have been confirmed in Little Blackfoot Meadows and reported in the Great Burn. All of these species, except mule deer, require essentially a wilderness environment to thrive. Little Blackfoot Meadows is close to Helena, and the Great Burn is near Missoula. Residents of both cities and their out-of-state friends and relatives make substantial use of both roadless areas for wilderness purposes.

With the changes made that we have recommended above, we urge prompt passage of S. 2850.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

Clifton R. Merritt
Executive Director

CRM:rsm

cc Senator John Melcher
Senator Max Baucus
Representative Pat Williams
Representative Ron Marlenee

American Wilderness Alliance
4260 East Evans Avenue / Suite 3 / Denver, Colorado 80222 / (303) 758-5018

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Working Together To
Conserve Wild America

August 18, 1984

Senator Malcolm Wallop, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands & Reserved Water
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Wallop:

Recently, I submitted a statement from the American Wilderness Alliance for the official hearing record on S. 2850, the Montana Wilderness Act.

This is to add a few brief supplementary comments, and I would greatly appreciate it if you would also make them a part of the official hearing record on this subject.

The American Wilderness Alliance desires to reaffirm its longstanding support of the East Pioneers for wilderness status. The entire area is highly scenic and wild. It provides irreplaceable habitat for many kinds of sensitive wildlife which lose out when man and his developments move in. Among these are the moose, elk, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, mountain lion and native cutthroat trout. The area receives substantial wilderness recreational use each year. It provides quality wilderness fishing, hunting and camping and supports an outfitting and guiding industry important to the local economy.

So we and our many Montana members are pleased that the East Pioneers area is included in S. 2850 as an addition to the National Wilderness System.

We respectfully urge, however, three small but significant changes in the proposed wilderness boundaries to improve the area:

Restore the small, narrow roadless ridge to the northeastern corner of the proposed wilderness, near Canyon Creek.

Include both Cherry Lake and Granite Lake in the wilderness.

Add the wild Buckhorn Creek drainage to the proposed wilderness area.

The roadless ridge on the northeastern corner of the proposed wilderness was recommended for wilderness status by the U. S. Forest during RARE II. Montana's conservation groups and the American Wilderness Alliance supported it. Although only about a mile wide and five miles long, this steep ridge is critical habitat for a thriving herd of mountain goats. Goats from this ridge have been taken periodically to stock other suitable ranges. The mountain goat is highly dependent on its rugged habitat remaining as wilderness. Although narrow and small, this precipitous ridge is entirely undeveloped and wild and can easily be managed as a part of the East Pioneer Wilderness.

Cherry Lake, Granite Lake and Buckhorn Creek are equally wild and well qualified for wilderness status. They would substantially enhance and make more complete this wilderness ecosystem with only minor boundary adjustments to include them.

It should be remembered that the Forest Service and conservation groups originally proposed an East Pioneer Wilderness of over 90,000 acres. We have already given up over 10,000 acres in the northern part of the area because of Amoco's mineral speculation and interests. This major deletion should be enough. We should not have to leave out the goat ridge, Cherry Lake, Granite Lake and Buckhorn Creek, also.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

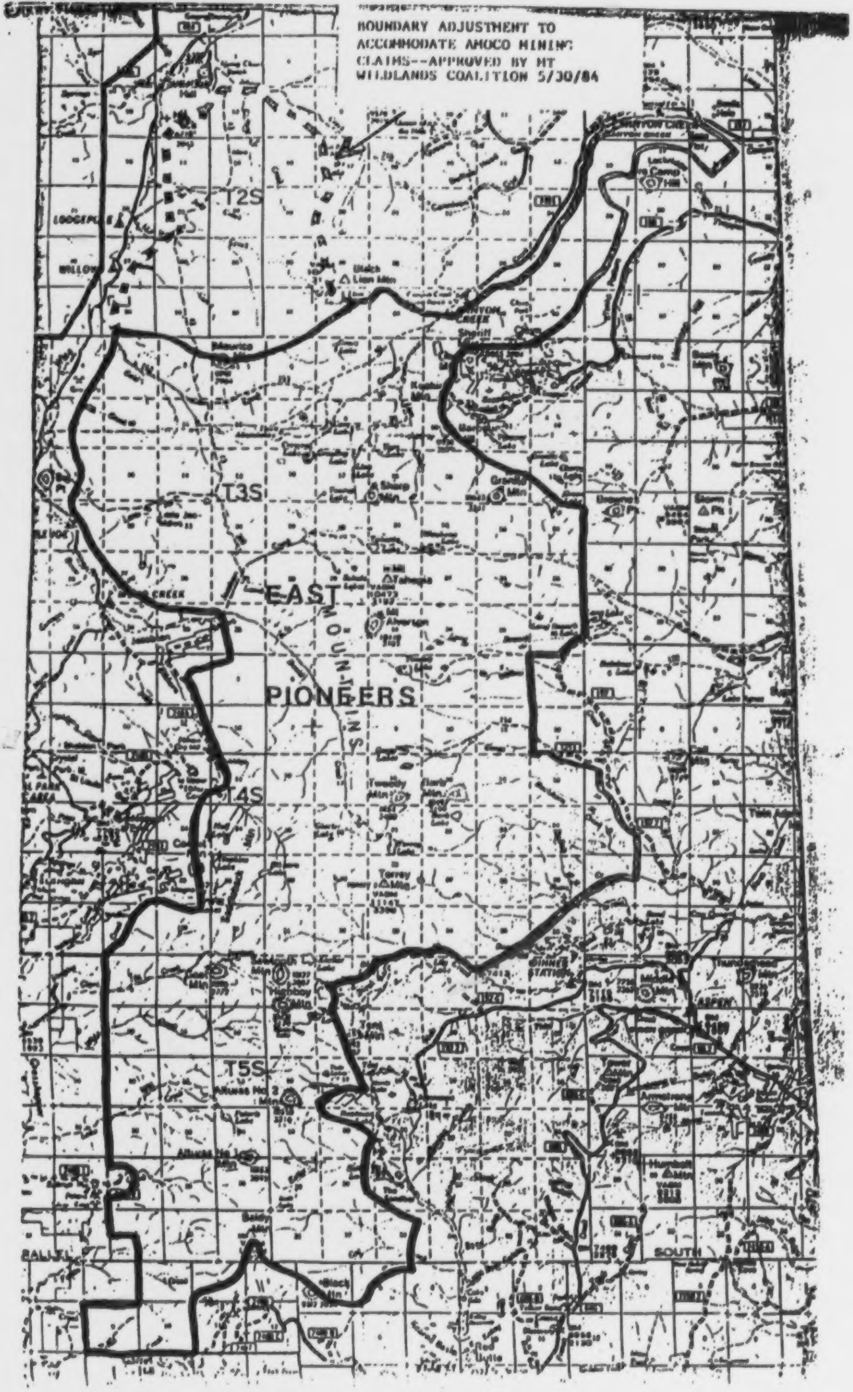
Clifton R. Merritt

Clifton R. Merritt
Executive Director

CRM:dbn

attachment

cc--Senator John Melcher
    Senator Max Baucus
    Representative Pat Williams
    Representative Ron Marlenee



BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT TO ACCOMMODATE AMOCO MINING CLAIMS--APPROVED BY MT WILDLANDS COALITION 5/30/84

T2S
T3S
EAST
PIONEERS
MOUNTAINS
T4S
T5S
ASPEN
SOUTH

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Reserved Water

FTR
S. 2850

James Rawson
P.O. Box 595
W. Yellowstone MT
59758

Dear Sir;

As a concerned individual who has rarely written to his representatives, I took the time to express my views about the wilderness Bill now before your committee (S 2850). Frankly I felt quite frustrated with reply I recieved. I realize that one cannot personally answer each letter. But I also feel a form letter merely repeating what has been in print many times before inadequet. It is no wonder people like myself rarely write.

If this were not such an important issue I would not feel compelled to write again. Hopefully this time my opinion will be considered or at least heard.

The Bill before your comittee has been refered to by Senator M. Bacus as "a reasonable balance between conservation and the development of Montana's natural resources." I would like to ask, what kind of balance can there be in preserving as wilderness 747,178 acres out of over 6 million under consideration. That is about 16%. Not much on the side of our National Heritage.

I am not opposed to Renewable Resource Development, but I do feel that wilderness unlike other resources managed by the Forest Service is non renewable and should be given greater consideration.

Personally I feel that it is more that unwise to release 5 million acres for multipule use management at this time. Especially since full compliance with the National Forest

Management Act (NF) has not been adhered in this or any other Region. Specifically, most if not all the National Forests are operating under inadequet or incomplete Land Management Plans, and no formal land management plans meeting the provisions of this Law have been approved. If the Forest Service cannot develop acceptable plans and meet the Requirements of this Act on land already under their control - why give them more?

I don't fully understand the legalities of this Act and its Ramifications. Perhaps it is something you could investigate. Anyway it seems simple to me - if I were to contract someone to build a house for me, and they had no plans. I wouldn't let them build me another until I saw how the first one turned out. Why needlessly risk public lands and the future of this country.

I would not like to see the Forest Service develop the acres in question merely to meet the targets imposed on them to exist and function. Rather, I would like to see them meet the intent of the law - proper management.

In the long run it might be better to wait until the provisions of the National Forest Management Act have been met, before deciding such an important issue. These areas can't be restored once used.

I thankyou for taking the time to consider my opinions and hope I haven't wasted your time.

Thank you
Tom Reader

Tony

S. Kenneth Shesne
Rt. 2, Box 3455
Red Lodge, MT 59068
August 8, 1984

SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
RECEIVED
AUG 13 1984
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Chairman
Senate subcommittee on
Energy and Natural Resources
Senate Office Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Sir:

I request that this letter be made part of the public hearing record on the Montana wilderness bill, S. 2850.

Unbelievably bad, that's the only way I can describe this bill from a wilderness advocate's perspective.

In general, insufficient qualifying acreage included; highly compromising alternative management categories designated (if it's wilderness then let's classify it as such); overall, skewed strongly toward the competing exploitative and mechanized recreationist factions.

Specifically, for south-central Montana:

(1) Omission of the Wyoming high lakes country (despite its recommendation by the Shoshone National Forest Supervisor for wilderness inclusion) from the Beartooth Wilderness. This high lakes area would probably score higher in wilderness qualifying points than any other area in Wyoming and Montana and is an integral part of the bordering Beartooth Wilderness lake country. Wilderness advocates (I was the final chairman of the Montana Wilderness Association's Absaroka-Beartooth (A-B) wilderness committee), prior to the establishment of the Beartooth Wilderness, tried to incorporate the high lakes country in the original wilderness acreage but we were defeated by Wyoming politics at that time also. I ask again as I did previously, why should an eminently qualifying piece of wilderness - despite its recommendation for such by the local forest supervisor - be disqualified by Wyoming political provincialism? The Wyomingites have the 20,680 acre Line Creek Plateau wilderness study area for their pickups, off road vehicles, motorcycles, etc., to ruin with their noise and numbers in this area. Must we sacrifice the Wyoming (Wyoming only by quirk of its northern border but actually more naturally a part of Montana than Wyoming because of our Beartooth Highway access) high lakes country to the same unnatural and "gosh awful" faith?

(2) The bizarre idea of relinquishing 1700 acres north of Goose Lake from the A-B Wilderness area because of speculative possibilities of renewed mining of presently uneconomical patented

mining claims in the area is a clear case of the privileged individual tail wagging the uninformed public dog. Contrary to Senator Melcher's contention that the mining claims area erroneously was included in the original A-B Wilderness bill, we argued long and hard for the area's inclusion since no active mining had been going on for many years in the area prior to the designation of the A-B Wilderness and we felt, that given the time, the area would eventually heal itself. In any event donating 1700 acres to satisfy a private interest is not my idea of democratically serving the public. The area has been designated wilderness for some four years without any administrative problems, why is it now necessary to take away 1700 acres from the public?

(3) Finally, the absence of any wilderness designation in the Crazy Mountains is an outright crime. Yes, there are considerable private inholdings in the Crazies but the publicly owned areas are so uniquely beautiful they should be preserved in their pristine condition. I camped in the still snow filled cirque of the probably most heavily used Big Timber Canyon area just this June. The cirque is one of the most beautiful I have seen in all of Wyoming and Montana. My other concern is that if the alpine areas are not given wilderness protection, the Crazies, like the isolated and smaller ranged Bear Paw Mountains which also dominate their surrounding level plains, will have their fronts ablaze with sunset and nighttime mining yard lights as is the case with the now not so beautiful sunset view of the Bear Paws. The sunset Bear Paw view certainly was a schock to me this Easter when I disappointingly discovered the unnatural night lights punctuating the near ridge line silhouette of the magnificent Bear Paws. This is not yet the case in the equally landscape dominating Crazies (or on the front of the nearby Absarokas) but it well could be if no wilderness status is afforded the same esthetically sensitive mountain ridgeline and front areas. Therefore, because of the above esthetic concern and the sheer quality of some of the Crazies' wilderness candidate areas, as much of the Crazies should be given wilderness status as is possible.

In summary, then, the Montana Wilderness Bill is inadequate in the amount of acreage designated, in its attempt to assign less protective management designations rather than protect wilderness with wilderness designation, and in its overall skewing toward the less protective and more exploitative alternatives to wilderness.

Specifically, elimination of the Wyoming high lakes country adjacent to the A-B Wilderness, despite its recommendation for wilderness status by the Shoshone National Forest wilderness study team; gutting 1700 acres north of Goose Lake in the A-B Wilderness to accommodate purely speculative mining interests; and the absence of any wilderness status protection for the esthetically sensitive Crazies, are the most grossly obvious inadequacies of the Montana Wilderness Bill and should be immediately rectified.

Let's see if we can forget the political expediencies of the present in favor of the need for open space, natural area recreation, and unsullied views of our mountain landscapes in fifty, one hundred, or even one thousand years from now. This is the last hurrah for wilderness designation in Montana. What we get now is probably all we will have a century and more from now with a much larger population living near and seeking entry at the wilderness door. The present bill offers only a barely audible whisper to what should realistically and sagaciously be a loud and thunderous last hurrah legacy to the future generations of Montana and America.

To accomplish the above,the bill radically needs to be modified in at least the areas mentioned.

Yours truly,

S. Ken Shesne

cc: Montana Congressional delegation

DAW Forest Products Company
Coeur d'Alene Operations - P.O. 1119, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814 - (208) 765-4717

STATEMENT OF DAW FOREST PRODUCTS BEFORE THE U.S. SENATE SUB-COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND RESERVE WATERS ON THE MONTANA WILDERNESS ACT OF 1984

I am Frank Favor, Area Resource Manager for DAW Forest Products, headquartered in Lake Oswego, Oregon. DAW has four lumber manufacturing plants in Idaho and Montana. These plants depend on Public Timber for eighty percent of their raw material requirements. I will restrict written testimony to the effect of the Montana Wilderness Act of 1984 on our manufacturing plant in Superior, Montana.

Background

In the late 1940's, Superior, Montana had a population of less than 750, and in fact, all of Mineral County had only 2,500 people. Two small mines were the main employment. The Spruce Bark Beatle was just beginning to ravage the mature Spruce stands on the upper Lolo and Clearwater National Forest. Millions of board foot of timber were dying. The Diamond Match Company (predecessor to DAW), entered into an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to jointly build and finance a high standard forest development road up the Trout Creek drainage, over Hoodoo Pass, and into the Cedars Ranger Station. The Company also agreed to construct a complete lumber manufacturing facility in Superior. Mill and road construction started in 1948 and at the dedication ceremony in 1953, which was attended by the Governor of Montana and also the State's Congressional Delegates, it was noted in press releases to be the most modern mill in the West, and also had the largest enclosed building in the State of Montana.

Stability and Community Development

Superior now has a population of 1,100 with Mineral County close to 4,000. The community has a new modern hospital, schools, churches and many new businesses. DAW pays 25% of the County taxes and directly employes 145 skilled workers at an average straight time wage of ten dollars per hour. We also provide indirect employment of 100 loggers, road and maintenance contractors. A University of Montana study shows there are seven service jobs in banks, stores, motels, and restaurants, etc. for each direct employee. This also calls for additional State, County and City employees.

Effect of Wilderness Legislation on Superior and Mineral County

The Montana Wilderness Act of 1984 when combined with the Idaho Forest Management Act of 1984, would, if the area boundaries are not significantly changed from the original bills, be catastrophic for the town of Superior and Mineral County. In the Montana bill, the East side of the Bitterroot Range designates 91,600 acres as the Hoodoo Wilderness, while in the Idaho bill, the West side of the Bitterroot Range

(continued on page 2)

designates 124,500 acres as the Kelly Creek-Hoodoo Wilderness. The fact is that the total 216,100 acres is one large roadless area that happens to have the State line running through its center. Sixty percent of the area was designated as high productive commercial timberland in the RARE II roadless area re-evaluation. Originally, the commercial area contained vast stands of Cedar, Pine, Fir, Spruce and Larch, but in a matter of a few days, was nearly completely burned in the fire of 1910. It now contains a mature overstory of Lodgepole Pine with an understory of the original Cedar, Pine, Fir Spruce and Larch. It has some of the highest sites, and best timber potential producing areas in either state. Unless these nearly pure stands of Lodgepole Pine are put under proper management, we have the potential for a second 1910 burn. The mature Lodgepole are beginning to die which will introduce the Mountain Pine Beatle, which wiped out many of the Lodgepole Stands in Northeastern Montana and Eastern Oregon. The big difference is the dead pine in the above areas was salvaged, whereas with no development in the Hoodo Divide, the dead timber will go up in fire as happened in the Sleeping Child fire in 1960.

The U.S. Forest Service estimates the annual allowable cut on the Montana side at 6MM board feet, and on the Idaho side at 10MM board feet for that portion of commercial forest land that is within the total roadless area. The local Superior Ranger District on Lolo Forest and the Kelly Creek District on the Clearwater Forest estimates that 30 to 40% of their allowable cut must come from these roadless areas in the next decade. This is because of watershed constraints on the developed portion of their district.

If too much commercial forest land base is enclosed in the Hoodoo Wilderness Proposal, operations of the Superior Sawmill would be curtailed and eventually closed. A modern integrated sawmill, with planers and dry-kilns cannot be operated profitably on a one-shift basis.

The loss of employment for Superior and Mineral County would be devastating for the residents. The nearest alternate employment would be 100 miles away, if available, as there is no other employment opportunities within the county. The sale of dried fish and fruit to backpackers using the Wilderness, or the occasional rental of saddle horses will not support much of a population.

We have spent many hours flying the area in a helicopter, working over aerial photographs, riding horseback and walking to determine where the Wilderness boundary should be placed. We recognize that some wilderness is perhaps necessary to preserve the beauty of the area, even though any development of the high meadows and lake areas would be unlikely. We would prefer wilderness boundary of 40 to 45 thousand acres, similar to that proposed by the Inland Forest Resource Council.

We therefore request that your committee seriously consider reducing the size of the proposed Hoodoo Wilderness Area as included in Montana Wilderness Act by fifty percent. This would withdraw the highest quantity of commercial forest lands, and allow for a logical wilderness area following geographic ridge lines. It would also allow for some stability and future for the residents of Superior and Mineral County.

cc: Congressman Craig
Marlenee
Williams

Senator Simms
Baucus
Melcher
McClure

Sincerely Yours,

Frank J. Favor
Area Resource Manager
DAW Forest Products Company

FJF:tkl

Copy

August 9, 1984

Senator John Melcher
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20010

Dear Senator Melcher:

I will not be able to attend the hearing on the Montana Wilderness bill in D.C. on August 9th, but I take this opportunity by letter and attached information to plead the cause for inclusion of the Stony Mt. Roadless Area in the bill for wilderness classification.

The Stony Mt. Area lies astride the Sapphire Mts and is part of three different National Forests, the Lolo, Bitter Root, and Deer Lodge. It is a large area, about 100,000 acres, tough and wild.

Confusion has reigned in the minds of local people about this area -- where is it, how big, etc. Three reasons seem to answer this: one, the name is a misnomer--there is no Stony Mt! The heart of this area centers on Dome Shaped Mt. (see attached yellow sheet). People had never heard of Stony Mt. How could they have? There was no such place!

Second, the area was never considered as a whole area -- rather, piece by piece, by the three forests. This same approach had fouled up roadless areas in the first RARE process, as you may well remember. Naturally, an area of 22,000 acres is looked at in an entirely different way than an area of 100,000 acres. Size does make a difference. The impacts of the outside world recede rapidly as one goes deeper into a wild area. Wildlife habitat by the same token can be more remote, better protected, and certainly more diverse. The third reason for its relative anonymity is that it's a tough area geologically. Lots of rock outcroppings, steep canyon walls--an area in which wildlife is much more at home than are people.

I have made an effort to gather together as much pertinent information as I could in this short time, to bring to you enough factual background to give support to my contention that Stony Mt. is a prime candidate for wilderness classification and infinitely worthy of protection afforded by the Montana Wilderness bill.

Some of the material you may have already seen. Perhaps not. Some I know is new. Of particular interest, I think, are the letters from Dr. Chet Rideout, Sherman Hayes, and John Firebaugh. They have all three experienced the area in a different manner and their letters do throw some light on the diversity of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the area.

I have included a copy of the management direction the Lolo Forest is giving to the Mgt. Unit #11 which includes the Lolo portion of Stony Mt. This area is to be kept undeveloped. True, they did not recommend wilderness, but neither did they oppose it. (Remember this is only a small part of a large area.)

The Bitter Root Forest Mgt. direction is much the same story. See attached sheet. I do not have a detailed analysis from the Deer Lodge but it is my understanding that a sizeable portion of their part of Stony Mt. Area is to be kept undeveloped. Some timber resource in Stony Creek drainage and Shively Gulch is being looked at. This area could be deleted, of course, if it appears that the timber resource is of sufficient value.

This brings up the question of the value of the timber resource in the Alt. W. areas. I sent to each of the Montana delegation a copy of Tom Powers' 1978 analysis of the economics of the Alt. W. areas (see attached). His statement on p. 2: "Brief analysis of all of Montana's forest using older data suggests that the reduction in potential yield associated with Alternative W. would not reduce the potential yields of the forests below the current harvest levels. This means that intensive management of the existing roaded areas can offset the loss of marginal timber in the roadless areas."

I realize that you will be hearing from many other people in Montana about other worthy areas. If I did not sincerely consider Stony Mt. a truly important oversight, I would not be taking up your time and mine to bring to your attention how worthy I know this area to be. I have heard no negative impressions from any of the three forests toward classification, nor do I have reason to believe that classification would be opposed by the Forest Service. Congress should have an opportunity to pass judgment -- your recommendation of Stony Mt. will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Doris Milner

Doris Milner, MWA Rep.
Bitter Root National Forest
NW 75 Ricketts Road
Hamilton, MT. 59840

8 Enclosures

cc: Baucus
Williams
Marlenee

Dr. Chester B. Rideout
3183 Worthington
Fort Collins, CO 80526
July 31, 1984
(303) 226-4363

Senator John Melcher
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Melcher:

I understand there will be a hearing on the Dome Shaped Mountain area of the Sapphire Mountains of Montana on August 9, and I am concerned that this area (the Sapphire Mountains of Montana north of Skalkaho Road) might be overlooked for wilderness status (I'm referring to S.2050).

During a four year period (1970-73) I conducted a study of mountain goats in the Sapphire Mountains and made Dome Shaped Mountain my base camp. The area supports populations of mountain goat, mule deer, elk, black bear, coyote, wolverine, golden eagle, bobcat, and probably also mountain lion. The north side of Dome Shaped Mountain is a natural salt lick which is used by elk, deer, and mountain goats, some of which come from ten miles or more to the lick.

I trapped and marked 20 mountain goats on Dome Shaped Mountain during my study, and recently (August 1982) returned to the study area and saw one of my marked goats (at that time an eleven year old female) on the goat cliffs. I was amazed at the beauty of the area, and at the complete lack of change...it was as if the mountain had been put into storage since we left. There are fantastic views from Dome Shaped Mountain of the Burnt Fork River drainage, the Sapphires to the north and Palisade Mountain to the west, and the Bitterroot Mountains and the Anaconda Pintlar Wilderness. The fishing (as usual) was also good at Little Stony Lake.

I hope this area is given wilderness protection. It certainly has all of the qualifications for wilderness - beauty, solitude, wildflowers and wildlife, and some of the most spectacular views you could see anywhere. I am enclosing a list of my publications, most of which were generated from my Sapphire Mountains mountain goat study. If you need any more information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chester B. Rideout, Ph.D.
Dr. Chester B. Rideout

Chester B. Rideout

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

1973. The goats on Dome Shaped Mountain. Montana Outdoors, 4(3): 2-5, May-June.

1974. The goats of Gunsight Pass. National Parks Magazine, 48(2): 18-21.

1974. Radio tracking the Rocky Mountain goat in western Montana. Proc. 11th Ann. Rocky Mtn. BioEng. Symp.: 139-144.

1974. Comparison of techniques for capturing mountain goats. J. Wildl. Manage., 38(3): 573-575.

1974. A radio telemetry study of the ecology and behavior of the Rocky Mountain goat in western Montana. Ph.D. Dissertation, Univ. of Kansas, May.

1975. *Oreamnos americanus*. Mammalian species account, 63: 1-6. With Robert S. Hoffmann.

1975. Use of girth measurement for estimating weight of mountain goats. J. Wildl. Manage., 39(4): 705-708. With Gary L. Worthen.

1978. Mountain goat. In Big game of North America: ecology and management (D. Gilbert and J. Schmidt, eds.), Stackpole Books.

MONTANA

DEPARTMENT OF

FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, Montana 59801

July 18, 1984

Doris Milner
N.W. 75 Ricketts Road
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Doris:

The following is a summary of wildlife comments regarding the Dome-Shaped Mountain - Stoney Creek area.

It is essential that this area be managed as roadless backcountry, and probably the only way to ensure that no roads are built is to have the area designated as wilderness. This is very important summer elk habitat and has one of the largest elk herds in west-central Montana, with about 1,000 elk using it during the summer and fall. The area needs to be managed as roadless to maintain some type of quality hunting and security areas for big game during the hunting season since the surrounding country is highly roaded and developed. Any road access would definitely reduce the effectiveness of this high quality habitat to hold elk.

The Dome-Shaped Mountain area is the center of a native population of mountain goats, estimated to be 65-75 in number during the early 1970's. The roadless character of this habitat and security provided is extremely important for the future well-being of this herd.

An expanding mule deer herd also spends the summer and fall in this area.

Moose, black bear, and an occasional mountain lion, Canada lynx, and wolverine also frequent this pristine habitat, a reflection of the remoteness and quality of this area.

Stoney Lake offers an excellent cutthroat fishery.

Sincerely,

Joh

John Firebaugh
Regional Wildlife Mgr.

JF/pm

Sherman L. Hayes
704 BIG CORRAL ROAD
HAMILTON, MONTANA 59840

July - 30 - 78

Dear Doris Milner:

Regarding our conversation some time ago - You can bet that I would support Alternative W approval -
My first big game hunting in Montana was on Willow Creek in [illegible]. Since then I have hunted [illegible] creek and Skalkaho areas with wonderful success on big game - and also enjoyed big herds of mule deer and elk on their winter ranges while hunting cougars and bobcats with hounds. We have spent many wonderful days on Kent, Fish, Stony, + Johnson lakes and always had good luck with the fishing. Saw our first goat near Palisade Mt. where you would hardly expect to see a goat. We spent almost a day watching the sheep over on the Rock Creek drainage. The "Dome Shaped" Mt. area is truly a sportsmans paradise and I would hate to see it exploited.

My hunting and hiking days are over but I would certainly like to see it preserved as a Wilderness in hopes that others may enjoy it as much as we have.

Good Luck

Yours truly

Sherman Hayes

RARE II
Stony Mountain
(Approximately 108,000 Acres)
8/78 R.A. Strong

1. RARE II ID - #L1BAD and 01808

2. Location - Bitterroot, Deerlodge, and Lolo NF's.

	Acres	
	Gross	Net
Bitterroot - L1BAD	50,400	49,800
Lolo & Deerlodge - 01808	57,600	57,520
Total	108,000	107,320

3. Ownership: NF 107,320 acres
Other 680 acres

4. Status of Planning:

L1BAD is being reevaluated in RARE II even though it is in a completed LMP (Chief's decision recognizing two factors; (1) Entire roadless area was not evaluated in unit plan and (2) continuing controversy centering around the allocation of roadless lands in the unit plan.)

In the event neither unit is selected for wilderness in RARE II, implementation of the Bitterroot portion would proceed as spelled out in the LMP. This would involve approximately 27,000 acres that would be managed for undeveloped backcountry values.

01808 - LMP has not been started.

5. Primary Impacts on Naturalness

a. Within RARE II Area

1. Approximately 2 miles of road to mine in Gold Creek. Approximately 1 mile of mining roads in head of St. Clair Creek.

2. Irrigation dams on Gleason, Little Burnt Fork, Fuse, and Stony Lakes.

3. Unimproved roads - 4 miles from Dam Creek Lake to Burnt Fork; 5 miles Stony Lake Road.

4. Cabins - Gold Creek mine, Eagle Creek mine, and Dome Mountain.

5. Grazing overuse in vicinity of Skalkaho Mountain. Past use by sheep, present cattle trespass.

b. Immediately adjacent to RARE II area

1. Vermiculite mine road - has been reconstructed recently. Burnt Fork Road to campground. Road and timber sale activity into Signal Creek. Roads and sale activity between Gird Point Lookout and Skalkaho Mountain. Williams Gulch Road.

6. Selected RARE II Data

a. Utility Corridors - no.

b. WARS	a.	natural integrity (1-7)	5
	b.	apparent naturalness (1-7)	5
	c.	adjusted natural integrity	6
	d.	adjusted apparent naturalness (1-7)	6
	e.	solitude (1-7)	6
	f.	primitive recreation (1-7)	6
	g.	composite sum a,b,e,f (4-28)	22
	h.	adjusted sum c,d,e,f (4-28)	24
	i.	supplementary wilderness (1-5)	3
	j.	scenic values (1-5)	4

c. Water withdrawals	None		
d. Water impoundments	2	10 acres	
e. Timber Use Classes	L1BAD	01808	Total
Standard Component	12,685	14,552	27,237
Special Component	4,954	840	5,794
Marginal Component	3,470	13,438	16,908
Unregulated Component	23,532	29,948	53,480
Deferred Component	0	--	--
Noncommercial Forest	2,694	2,270	4,964
f. Site productivity	← 50 →		
g. Growing Stock			
Sawtimber MMBF	255.7	307.7	563.4
All MMCF	66.5	116.2	182.7
h. Potential Yield			
Sawtimber MMBF	1.8	3.0	4.8
Products MMCF	.1	.9	1.0
i. Programed Harvest, MMBF	2.5	4.2	6.7
j. Sales in 5-year program			
No. No.	3	4	7
Volume MMBF	12	19.2	31.2

k. Possible mineral reserves	
Critical	Variable
Noncritical	Variable
Geothermal	None
Uranium	Unknown

l. Recreation (MRVD'd)	Present	Potential	Wilderness
Developed	0	0	0
Dispersed - nonmotorized	8.1	18.3	3.5
motorized	1.7	2.5	0
Big game hunting	3.1	4.4	3.9
Small game hunting	.5	.9	.5
Fishing	2.5	3.8	.8
m. Grazing (AUM's)	0	52	52

n. Wildlife - Occupied Habitat (refers to the 29 species associated with wilderness). Black bear, cougar, lynx, bobcat, fisher, marten, wolverine, elk, moose, mountain goat, golden eagle, goshawk, cutthroat trout, grayling, prairie falcon.

7. General Description:

Area straddles the Sapphire Divide for approximately 15 miles from the Skalkaho Highway on the south to the vicinity of Sawmill Saddle on the north. The Divide and several lateral ridges are at an elevation of about 8,000 feet. Prominant landmarks include Dome-Shaped, Eagle Point, Skalkaho and Palisade Mountains, and Fuse, Stony, Gleason, Foolhen, Kneaves, and Little Burnt Fork Lakes. The Gird Point/Vermiculite Mine Roads almost separate the Gird and St. Clair Creeks portion from the main body of the roadless area. Roaded and developed lands adjacent to the Willow/Signal/Burnt Fork Lake road is another major penetration into the roadless area. Topography is generally steep and rugged, except for about 10,000 acres on the Lolo National Forest where terrain is much more gentle and rolling. Major drainage includes the headwaters of the Burnt Fork Bitterroot River and Daly Creek and practically the entire length of Stony, Lyman, Hutsinpillar Creeks (tributaries of Rock Creek.) Higher elevations under the major ridges are subalpine environments with considerable evidence of past alpine glaciation. Most of the current use is found here, as well as at the lakes and along major drainages. Most of the area is forested with a considerable acreage underlain by rock rubble (particularly prevalent in the Burnt Fork proper and on the Lolo in line with Quigg Peak.

Probably the best and most extensive elk summer habitat on the Bitterroot National Forest occurs in the upper Daly Creek/Burnt Fork basin. Little if any deer or elk winter range is present, but the area does have year-round habitat for moose (some of the better occuring in the Gold and Burnt Fork drainages.) Mule deer summer range is average.

More than 75 percent of the Skalkaho Game Preserve (created in 1925 by the Fish and Game Commission) lies within the area. A large variety of large and small game and nongame animals are found in the preserve; however, it was created primarily because of the large elk herd (200+) summering there. Habitat diversity is probably a little better than the adjacent RARE #01421, but is not outstanding. The animal species complement is virtually the same for both areas.

IFRC 310

MONTANA WILDERNESS ASSOCIATION ALTERNATIVE W 7/83

Summary Fact Sheet
for the
PROPOSED STONY MOUNTAIN WILDERNESS

Location: Bitterroot, Lolo and Deerlodge National Forests

Acreage: 33,120 acres - Lolo National Forest
22,320 acres - Deerlodge National Forest
80 acres - Private

The area is located in the Rock Creek drainage and is bounded on the east by Rock Creek - a nationally recognized blue-ribbon trout fishery.

Topography varies from rugged mountain crests and steep breaks along the Sapphire Range to gently rolling hills and steep opening into Rock Creek canyon .

A granite intrusion of approximately 9,600 acres occurs between Eagle and Wyman Creeks. This formation is flat and rolling and is characterized by large granitic boulders and occasional granitic spires.

Much of this area is forested with interspersed grassland parks and rocky areas. Common tree species include subalpine fir, Engelmann spruce, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir.

There are approximately 300 acres of deer and elk winter range and 7,400 acres of key elk summer range on the east side of the area. The area also contains approximately 25,270 acres of existing and potential mountain goat habitat.

Numerous rock points and subalpine basins, located in the heads of various drainages, provide scenic views along the Bitterroot-Rock Creek divide.

Recreational use is primarily associated with quality hunting. A well-developed trail system exists in the area.

There are no active grazing allotments and the grazing potential is considered low by the Forest Service.

The Deerlodge Forest portion of this area lies immediately to the north of Skalkaho Pass in the Sapphires. The town of Philipsburg lies about 20 miles to the east. This unit is characterized by the rugged mountain crests, and steep breaks along the Stony and Little Stony Creek drainages. Chief attractions are the high vistas and Fuse and Stony Lakes which receive moderate fishing pressure Fuse Lake provides fishing opportunity for the rare Arctic grayling.

A very minor part of one grazing allotment is present.

Mineral potential is thought to be low.

Deer, elk, moose, bear, and mountain goat inhabit the area providing excellent wildlife hunting and viewing opportunities.

Stony Mountain is one of the largest remaining unprotected roadless areas in Montana - a wildland deserving of permanent statutory protection.

Alternative W and the RARE II Process in Montana: A Brief Economic Analysis

Comments on the RARE II DES
Submitted to the

Regional Forester
Region One
U. S. Forest Service

at the Request of the

Montana Coalition for Wilderness

by

Thomas M. Power
Associate Professor
Chairman
Department of Economics
University of Montana
September, 1978

1. The conflict between additional wilderness allocation and timber supply and wood-products jobs is the result of inefficient management of national forest lands. If these public lands were managed using the most basic of economic criteria, more timber and jobs could result from a land base no larger than the current roaded areas. In that sense we can "have our cake and eat it too". Wilderness and jobs are not in conflict. Inefficient forest management is in conflict with both jobs and wilderness.

2. The majority of the lands recommended for wilderness and further planning by the Montana Coalition for Wilderness in Alternative W cannot be managed economically for timber production. 70 percent have site productivities below 50 cubic feet per acre per year. The weighted average site productivity is just barely over 50 cubic feet per acre per year. Analysis of Pacific Northwest forests, California forests, and Southeast forests all show that sites with productivities below 60-65 cubic feet per acre per year cannot be managed economically for timber.

3. The Forest Services Timber Development Opportunity Rating System (DORS) indicates that 54 percent of the areas in Alternative W have zero opportunity for development for timber. These DORS ratings understate the problems with developing roadless areas by printing zeros whenever the costs are greater than the benefits instead of listing the net losses development would produce. Similarly some areas which are clearly not prime timber sites, such as the Great Burn and the Rattlesnake are given the highest development opportunity rating. This indicates biases which, if removed, would show most of Alternative W as having no timber development potential.

4. Current Law and Administration policy will restrict timber harvests and timber management to sites which can be managed efficiently for timber. Thus even if the lands in Alternative W are not classified as wilderness, most of them, will not yield any timber or support any jobs. In that important sense the opportunity cost of allocating them to wilderness as measured in terms of jobs and timber is zero.

5. FS analysis of one Montana forest, the Lolo, shows that all RARE II lands could be allocated to wilderness and the current level of harvest could continue. Brief analysis of all of Montana's forests using older data suggests that the reductions in potential yield associated with Alternative W would not reduce the potential yields of the forests below the current harvest levels. This means that intensive management of the existing roaded areas can offset the loss of the marginal timber in the roadless areas.

6. No timber shortages threaten Montana. Moderate price rises no greater than the long run average rise over the past decade will balance supply and demand. These price rises encourage the more efficient management of private forest lands and the greater utilization of wood wastes. This increases the supply and jobs associated with timber. The same price rises discourage inefficient use of wood thus reducing demand. Forest Service policy of selling timber below its long run costs of production discourages all of these positive results.

7. Roadless areas are an increasingly scarce resource which with rising population and incomes will become increasingly valuable in the future for recreation. Most of the land base in Montana and the nation is already available for developed and motorized recreation. Where it is not available it is because of lack of investment in facilities, not lack of land base available. Thus areas available for motorized and developed recreation are not scare, substitutes are readily available. The opposite is increasingly true of roadless areas. Thus little recreational cost is associated with wilderness allocation but a high and growing cost is associated with allocation of roadless areas to roaded development.

8. In any land allocation decision which will bring irreversible losses of a valuable resource, the expected steady rise in the relative value of wilderness recreation and lands over the coming years must be taken into account. Rising demand coupled with a physically limited supply of wild lands guarantees this rise in relative value.

MANAGEMENT AREA 11

Proposed
– Lolo Nat. Forest Plan
(33,120 acres of Stony Mt. Roadless Area - is in Mgt Area 11)

184,115 Acres

DESCRIPTION

This management area consists of large, roadless blocks of land distinguished primarily by their natural environmental character. They are located throughout the Forest in a variety of terrain and vegetative habitat types.

Portions of this management area on the Seeley Lake and Thompson Falls Ranger Districts are included in the Forest Service designated essential grizzly bear habitat as shown on the Proposed Forest Plan map. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will designate the critical habitat in the future, which could include the Forest Service designated essential habitat.

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The Forest-wide management direction included in Chapter I of this plan applies to this management area.

Management Goals:

1. Provide opportunities for a wide variety of dispersed recreation activities in a near-natural setting.

2. Provide for old-growth dependent wildlife species.

Management Area Standards and Guidelines:

1. Livestock grazing may be permitted.

2. Developed recreation facilities, like campgrounds or picnic grounds, will not be constructed.

3. Trails and trailhead facilities may be constructed or improved to increase accessibility, enhance dispersed recreation, and protect other resource values. Trails will be evaluated for nomination as part of the National Recreation Trail System.

4. Tree cutting will be limited to that required to eliminate safety hazards or permit trail construction. The management area is classified as unsuitable for timber production.

5. All management prescriptions will be compatible with the needs of grizzly bear on components of this management area which are within the essential habitat.

6. Any activities that occur in the portion of this area that is in the essential grizzly bear habitat must be compatible with habitat management of the species.

7. Areas will be evaluated periodically for significant insect and disease problems such as mountain pine beetle. Buildups of minor insects and most disease agents do not normally pose threats to adjacent lands and effects of these will be accepted as naturally occurring phenomena.

8. Management practices will follow guidelines for the Retention visual quality objective.

Minerals Practices:

9. The following oil and gas lease prescriptions are applicable to this management area: 1, 1a, 2b, 3, 3a, 3c, 3e, 3f, 3g, 3h, 3i, 5, 6, 10, and 11. These prescriptions are identified in Appendix F and will be recommended for inclusion as oil and gas lease stipulations when applicable.

Fire Practices:

10. Prescribed burning may be conducted to improve forage production and reduce hazards. Prescription fires may be allowed to burn in designated fire management areas so that fires may play a more nearly natural role. When fires are suppressed, suppression actions will generally be through the application of hand tools rather than heavy equipment.

Road Practices:

11. Roads will not be constructed for surface land management purposes. Roads will be permitted for mineral activities where construction is justified on the basis of mineral showings or data and where it is the next logical step in the development of the mineral resource. Some roads exist as a minor inclusion in the otherwise roadless land and these will be analyzed for closure in the Forest Travel Plan process.

SCHEDULING OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Provide the following recreation use opportunities:

Average Annual Recreation Visitor Days

Time Period	ROI Recreation Type MRVD's I	II	III-IV
1981	11.0	32.5	58.0
1982-1985	12.7	37.5	66.9
1986-1990	15.6	45.9	82.0
1991-2000	17.0	50.3	89.7
2001-2010	18.6	55.4	98.4
2011-2020	20.2	59.5	106.4
2021-2030	21.6	64.0	114.4

MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS

The following items that are to be monitored and evaluated in this management area are described in Table 4.

1-3, 1-4, 5-1, 8-1

1984 AUG 22 AM 11:05

1305 2nd Ave. North
Great Falls, Mt. 59401
August 18, 1984

Senator John Melcher
U. S. Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Melcher:

This is in regards to the Montana Wilderness Bill, S. 2850.

I think this bill has done a terrible injustice to Montana's roadless lands--out of 5.6 million acres, only 750, 000 for wilderness, and 5 million for development!!

I feel especially bad about the Rocky Mountain Front. "Special Management Areas" do not get the protection that wilderness designation gives. The Rocky Mountain Front has been my favorite hiking, back-packing, and nature study area for years. Though my days of enjoying it "on the ground" are limited, I want to know that it will always be the same--the spectacular scenery, the many kinds of wildlife, the clear streams, the wild flowers. I can't understand how this area, with its prairie-mountain ecosystem, unique in the lower 48, could be left out of the wilderness system.

I support Alternative W--1.9 million acres for wilderness.

And I think there should be hearings held in Montana on this bill.

Please include this in the Senate hearing record.

Sincerely yours,
Carley McCauley

Ms Carley McCauley

Copies to:
Senator Max Baucus, Rep. Pat Williams
Rep. Ron Marlenee

August 15, 1984

1984 AUG 27 PM 1:58

Dear Senator Melcher
Senator Baucus
Representative Williams

I am writing to you concerning S.2850 (H.R.6001), the "Wilderness Act of 1984." I would like this letter to be included in the public hearing record.

I make my living in the woods, doing timber stand inventories and planting trees. Without logging, I would be out of a job. I state this to bring to your attention the fact that when representatives of the timber companies speak against wilderness, they do not represent the views of everyone who works in the timber industry.

I am very disappointed with this bill, as are virtually all of my co-workers. We know that jobs in the woods are being lost to automation and not because of lack of timber to cut, due to wilderness.

One part of this bill that concerns, and even angers me, is the proposal to delete part of the already designated Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness from the wilderness system. due to mining interests. If land can be withdrawn from classification because someone stands to make some money off of it, then the whole wilderness system is meaningless -- nothing but a joke, a very expensive, time-consuming effort of futility. I don't understand how you can propose such a thing.

I am also at a total loss to understand why you have proposed deleting approximately 20,000 acres from the Scotchman's Peak Wilderness proposal. Wilderness advocates and ASARCo, Inc., put a lot of effort into reaching a compromise boundary encompassing 60,000 acres. The only people I know of that are not happy with this compromise are the Montana Mining Association and John McBride of St. Regis.

The M.M.A. is opposed to any more wilderness, period. Its unwillingness even to consider compromise should considerably reduce the weight given to its position in this debate. Since its only member with interests in this area (i.e., ASARCo) has agreed to the 60,000 acre boundary, the validity of its opposition in this instance is further reduced, to the point of insignificance.

Why Mr. McBride wants those 20,000 acres deleted is a mystery to everyone I know who is familiar with the area. A friend of mine cruised it for the Forest Service and describes it as "nothing but lodgepole and dead white pine." Another friend surveyed it for the BLM and shakes his head at the thought of trying to road it. I personally have done timber stand inventories in Hamilton, Star, and Napoleon Gulches; that just about covers the entire area now in dispute. There is not a great deal of timber, and most of the ground is very steep, very rocky, and quite dry -- if it were cut, it would be virtually impossible to reforest.

As if this were not enough, the area is highly visible from the Bull Lake highway, one of the prettiest drives in this State. It is inconceivable to me that the Forest Service would ever manage the area for timber, even if it were not designated as Wilderness.

In light of these facts, the decision to cut the Scotchman's proposal by one third makes no sense at all. If there is some other consideration of which those of us most familiar with this area are unaware, I would greatly appreciate it if you would inform me as to what it is; otherwise, I trust you will amend the final version of this bill to include a Scotchman's Wilderness area of 60,000 acres.

I am not personally familiar with other areas included in this bill, but if the way Scotchman's has been dealt with is any indication, many areas have been left out that should not have been. Unless there is a compelling reason to develop them, I feel that all the remnants of wilderness left to us should be protected, and passed on to future generations. I support the "Alternative W" proposal as a minimal amount of wilderness to be protected.

Sincerely,
Bill Martin
Bill Martin